



International Medical Corps team engaging with girls in accessory marking activity as part of psychosocial support in Derna.

The collapse of two dams upstream from the coastal city of Derna in northeast Libya following the impact of Storm Daniel in September 2023 has resulted in ongoing humanitarian needs in the region. International Medical Corps conducted a rapid needs assessment in February 2024. The preliminary results reflect the persisting communities' needs in the different sectors:

Health: Shortage of medical personnel and supplies

- Despite efforts to recruit specialized doctors, a severe shortage of qualified staff persists, particularly affecting primary and secondary healthcare centers.
- An urgent need exists for medical care, supplies and qualified personnel, particularly in reproductive health.
- In certain areas, such as Derna, residents—especially in the Alfatayeh area—are forced to travel more than 60 kilometers to access crucial health services like physiotherapy, posing a significant challenge, especially for individuals with disabilities.
- The cessation of medical-commodity supply from the pharmaceutical department at the Ministry of Health has led to disruptions in the medical supply chain, affecting numerous health facilities. Despite International Medical Corps supporting around 30 health facilities with essential medications, these facilities now face the risk of frequent stockouts.
- The lack of a well-defined health training program for newly graduated health staff is affecting staffing at healthcare facilities. Our health team is conducting health training sessions and practical tutorials to enhance their confidence and knowledge, aiming to enable them to deliver highly qualified health services.

FAST FACTS

- Following the September storm and dam breaches that resulted in more than 4,300 deaths in the coastal city of Derna, with an additional 8,500 individuals reported missing, approximately 40,000 people were compelled to evacuate their residences.
- Communities like Derna, Sousa, Al Bayada and Al Makhaili continue to bear the severe repercussions of the storm, requiring urgent assistance in healthcare, mental health and essential services such as water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

OUR FOOTPRINT

- International Medical Corps was the first international humanitarian organization in Libya after the 2011 conflict began, and has since been providing critical health, nutrition, protection, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and WASH services.

OUR RESPONSE

- Our emergency medical response includes 12 EMT Type 1 teams—nine mobile units and three stationed at fixed facilities strategically located in Derna, Sousa, Albayada, Albayda, Benghazi, Tobruk, Tokra and Misrata. These teams have conducted 18,994 health consultations to date.
- Addressing critical WASH needs in the region, we have delivered 4,236,000 liters of water through water trucking and 12,000 of 6-liter bottles and 13,800 of 7-liter packaged drinking water to affected communities in Derna.
- We provided non-food items (490 mattress, 686 blankets) to 1,176 people in Derna and Misrata.

- The assessment indicates a critical need to increase capacity and expedite the provision of essential medical supplies, such as pharmaceuticals and equipment. This is crucial for gaining the community's trust and encouraging support for healthcare facilities.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH): Infrastructure restoration needed

- Severe flooding in Derna resulted in a water and sanitation crisis affecting 400,000 people, who are now without safe drinking water, while 250,000 lack adequate sanitation.
- Urgent actions are required to restore water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure to prevent outbreaks, including providing WASH services such as rehabilitation, water plant installation, safe drinking water and awareness-raising sessions on personal hygiene and protective measures.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS): Capacity-building needed for local mental health practitioners

- The national MHPSS committee reflected that implementing mental health and psychosocial support interventions is crucial to ensure the recovery of the affected communities, and enable them to support themselves and build resilience. There also is a need to increase local capacity and provide training to mental health practitioners.
- Coordination between local authorities, international organizations and the UN community needs to be sustained and strengthened to ensure a smooth transition from their emergency response to recovery, and to enable authorities to restore their local capacities.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV): Women-led households left vulnerable amid economic instability

- Access to specialized prevention and response interventions has been limited for women and girls in the eastern region, as the flood impacted their access. Lack of access to services can further expose women and girls to GBV.
- The sudden absence of male guardians, typically the primary caretakers and breadwinners, as a result of death, injury or absence leaves many women and girls as heads of households. Loss of land and homes disrupts income stability and the ability to meet essential needs, such as hygiene items and food.
- The loss of family support networks, combined with existing movement restrictions and a lack of safe spaces for networking, exposes women and girls to further harm without access to support from family or service providers.

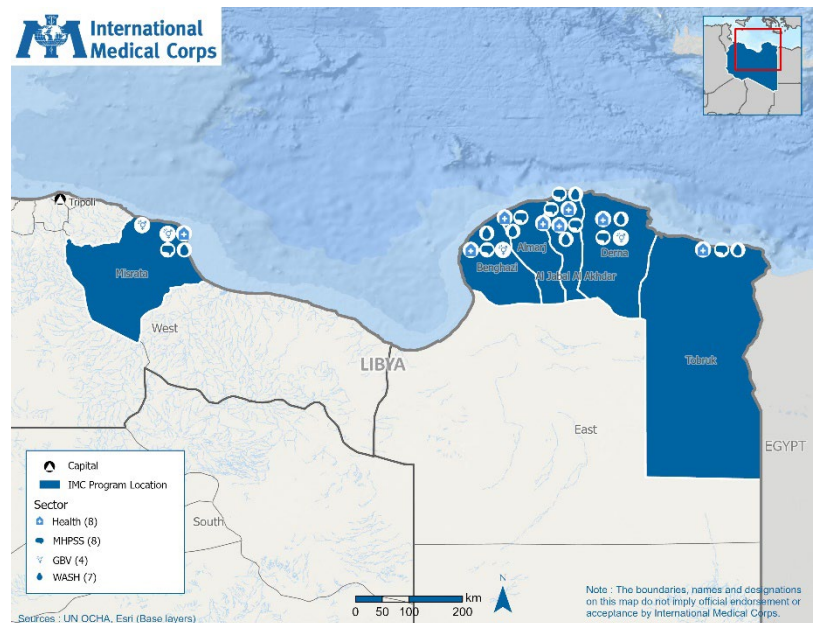
International Medical Corps Response

Health

As of mid-February, International Medical Corps has deployed 12 Type 1 Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs), strategically distributed among three fixed locations and nine mobile units. We operate at 30 health facilities in eight municipalities, including Derna, Sousa, Albayada, Albayda, Benghazi, Tobruk, Tokra and Misrata. These facilities comprise five hospitals, four polyclinics, and 21 primary healthcare centers (PHCCs). The teams provided emergency and primary healthcare services, such as reproductive health, child health, general consultations, health education sessions, capacity training and medication distribution. Our teams have so far completed 18,994 outpatient consultations (11,416 women, 7,578 men) in the flood-affected areas and areas affected by the IDP movement.

Our teams have conducted 35 on-the-job tutorials for healthcare providers at the supported health facilities. These tutorials focused on important skills and knowledge, such as cannula insertion, proper storage practices, infection-prevention measures in PHCC settings, breastfeeding and medical waste management. In all, 338 beneficiaries participated in these sessions.

International Medical Corps community health workers have conducted 1,720 awareness sessions in all supported locations, engaging 5,120 participants (2,965 women, 2,155 men) from the community. These sessions addressed various topics, including diabetes, hypertension, nutrition education, personal hygiene, coping strategies for post-traumatic symptoms, national vaccination protocols and personal hygiene for school students. The community responded



positively, showing great interest in expanding the scope of topics discussed, with a particular emphasis on general health subjects and mental health issues, especially related to child health and development.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

International Medical Corps supports the national helpline by providing mental health counselors. Since its establishment, our counselors have handled 3,625 calls, administering MHPSS consultations to 340 people. The remaining calls primarily entailed inquiries about available services, which our staff addressed through referrals as necessary. The MHPSS sessions encompassed a range of components, including psychological first aid (PFA), stress management, counseling, emotional support and psychoeducation. Significantly, 65% of the individuals reaching out were female, while 35% were male. Half of these callers were residents from directly affected areas, namely Derna, Al Bayda and Benghazi. The remaining people seeking assistance were IDPs located in and around Tripoli.

Starting in January, our team of nine professionals, including mental health counselors and case managers, initiated mental health consultations in Tobruk, Tokra, Benghazi, Misrata, Albayda, Albayyada, and Derna. To date, we have conducted 142 consultations (101 women, 41 men). We are collaborating with the national MHPSS committee in the eastern region to expand our services, integrating them with existing health services and aligning with the specific needs of the local population. Additionally, our MHPSS specialist provided PFA training for 12 staff members from different departments on February 21–22 in Derna.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Non-food Items (NFI)

International Medical Corps assessed 21 health facilities in Derna, Shahat, Al Baydha, Albayada Tokra, Tobruk and Benghazi, identifying the need to upgrade water and sanitation infrastructure. The assessment also emphasized improving water quality through desalination plant installation and conducting infection prevention and control (IPC) training.

In Derna's Alsaheil area, we delivered 4,236,000 liters of clean water to flood-affected communities, benefiting 1,432 families. We conducted rigorous water quality monitoring during transportation, with 358 trucks delivering 12,000 liters each. We installed three 5,000-liter bladder tanks in Derna's health facilities, with plans for four more at community distribution points and ten at health facilities in affected areas. In addition to infrastructure enhancements, we distributed 600 water jerry cans (10 liters each) and 1,600 water purification tablets, benefiting 1,667 people and enabling households to treat water at the point of use.

As of February, our team had distributed 13,800 7-liter bottles of drinking water to 6,900 people in Derna and provided 12,000 6-liter bottles to 400 people, for a two-month supply. In collaboration with a local NGO, we distributed 196 blankets to affected communities in Derna, and provided blankets and mattresses to 245 families in Misrata and Twaragha.

Working with the Libyan Red Crescent, International Medical Corps conducted a two-day training session for 24 community mobilizers (7 women, 18 men) in Derna, Shahat, Sousa and Albaydah, to expand hygiene-promotion activities and reach more people with hygiene-promotion activities. We conducted another training session to build the capacity of 13 health workers (3 women, 10 men) on topics including IPC, water quality and how to conduct regular maintenance for health facilities. As part of the hygiene awareness campaigns, International Medical Corps' hygiene promotion team conducted sessions that have reached 2,407 people (558 boys, 746 men, 649 women and 454 girls) in Dar Alslam, Abu Raheel, Al-fatayih, Alsaheili and Sousa. The sessions covered causes, symptoms and prevention of acute watery diarrhea (AWD), handwashing, safe water storage and water treatment.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Since September 2023, International Medical Corps' GBV teams have conducted awareness-raising and group psychosocial support activities in Benghazi, Derna, Misrata and Tawergha, engaging 345 women and girls affected by the flood. Sessions focus on psychosocial health, well-being and positive coping methods, and include group events such as accessory making and painting to promote community resilience, recovery and healing.

The GBV team also celebrated the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, emphasizing the pivotal role of women in science and technology. Celebratory activities comprised a panel discussion and awareness initiatives. As part of our commitment to capacity-building, International Medical Corps initiated GBV-related training sessions for staff to enhance their knowledge and equip them to deliver tailored services.



An International Medical Corps staff member at one of the celebrations for women and girls.

OUR RESPONSE IN NUMBERS

| HEALTH | | |
|--|---|--|
| 18,994 outpatient health consultations delivered (11,416 women, 7,578 men) | 5,120 people sensitized on health-related topics (2,965 women, 2,155 men) | |
| WASH | | |
| 4,236,000 liters of water distributed to 1,432 households | 12,000 of 6-liter bottles and 13,800 of 7-liter packaged drinking water were distributed to 7,300 people in Derna | 2,761 people sensitized on WASH-related topics |
| NFIs (490 mattresses, 686 blankets) distributed to 1,176 people in Derna and Misrata | | |
| MHPSS | | |
| 3,625 received calls through MHPSS national hotline | 340 people received remote MHPSS consultations (223 women, 117 men) | |
| 142 MHPSS in-person consultations (101 women, 41 men) | | |
| GBV | | |
| 426 beneficiaries reached through GBV services (400 women, 26 men) | 14 people trained or oriented on GBV-related topics (9 women, 5 men) | |