



*An International Medical Corps doctor consults with a patient.*

The humanitarian situation in the northeastern region of Libya remains precarious after the devastating flooding of September 10, 2023,<sup>1</sup> which resulted in more than 11,300 casualties. According to the needs assessment conducted by International Medical Corps in February 2024, humanitarian and early-recovery needs persist, months after the disaster.

Health facilities are still facing shortages of medical supplies and personnel. Residents in Derna—particularly the Alfatayeh area—often have to travel long distances to access essential health services like physiotherapy, posing a considerable challenge, particularly for people with disabilities. The scarcity of qualified pharmacists further hampers effective supply management of medicines. Rural health facilities need specialist doctors to manage the growing number of non-communicable/chronic diseases. Training sessions led by experienced medical specialists are crucial to better managing these shortages and to building trust in healthcare facilities. Such facilities also struggle with compromised water quality and a shortage of hygiene supplies, posing risks to the safety of patients and healthcare workers. Many communities still lack accessible and affordable clean water and are hampered by deficient sanitation facilities.

Health workers regularly encounter mental trauma, grief and anxiety in communities dealing with the loss of loved ones, homes and livelihoods. However, limited awareness about mental health leads to stigma against mental health issues and treatment. It is essential to improve local capacity through mental health practitioner training; providing training on psychological first aid (PFA) to local communities also is essential. Due to deaths, injuries or the absence of male family members during the flood, more women have been left to manage households, which disrupts their income and makes accessing necessities like hygiene items and food difficult. The breakdown of support networks, along with movement restrictions and a lack of safe spaces, has exposed women and girls to further risk of gender-based violence.

### FAST FACTS

- In the aftermath of the devastating September storm and dam breaches in Derna, where more than 4,300 people died and 10,000 were reported missing, approximately 40,000 residents were forced to evacuate.
- Derna, Sousa, Al Bayada, and Al Makhaili are among the communities grappling with the lasting effects of the disaster, and urgently require support in healthcare, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and 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, MHPSS and WASH services.

### OUR RESPONSE

- Our emergency medical response currently comprises 11 EMT Type 1 teams—eight mobile units and three stationed at fixed facilities in Albayda, Albayyada, Benghazi, Derna, Misrata, Sousa, Tobruk and Tokra. These teams have so far conducted 21,240 health consultations.
- To address crucial WASH needs, we have distributed almost 7.5 million liters of water through water trucking, 966 water jerry cans (10 liters each) and 1,628 water purification tablets.
- We have delivered 330 MHPSS in-person consultations to people in Albayda, Albayyada, Benghazi, Misrata, Tobruk and Tokra.

<sup>1</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/libya/libya-flood-response-humanitarian-update-20-february-2024-enar>

# International Medical Corps Response

## Health

As of March 31, International Medical Corps had deployed 11 Type 1 Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs)—three in fixed locations and eight mobile units covering 25 health facilities in eight municipalities, including Albayda, Albayyada, Benghazi, Derna, Misrata, Sousa, Tobruk and Tokra. These facilities comprise five hospitals, three polyclinics and 17 primary healthcare centers (PHCCs). Our teams offer emergency and primary healthcare services such as reproductive health, child health, general consultations, health education sessions, capacity-building training and distribution of medications. To date, the teams have completed 21,240 outpatient consultations (12,778 women, 8,462 men) in areas affected by flooding and the movement of internally displaced persons (IDPs).

In late February and early March 2024, International Medical Corps organized a three-day training session in Benghazi and Derna to improve the skills of healthcare professionals. The training involved 61 participants (51 women, 10 men) in Benghazi and Derna selected by the health district offices, and bolstered primary healthcare services across 10 health facilities. Led by experienced International Medical Corps medical doctors specializing in emergency medicine, pediatrics and reproductive health, the training focused on vital nursing skills such as patient triage, communication, emergency response and patient referral practices, as part of our collaborative capacity-development plan with relevant health authorities. So far, the teams have conducted 93 on-the-job tutorials for 775 healthcare providers at supported health facilities. These tutorials focused on important skills and knowledge, such as emergency first aid at primary health centers, good dispensing practices, -vital-signs assessment, electrocardiogram basics and basic laboratory skills.

In parallel, our community health workers (CHWs) have conducted 2,255 awareness sessions in all supported locations, engaging 7,973 participants (4,504 women, 3,469 men) from the community. Throughout March, our CHWs ramped up their school visits, in collaboration with the education office. The aim was to enhance awareness sessions during the school season, focusing on nutrition education, personal hygiene, coping strategies for post-traumatic symptoms, national vaccination protocols and personal hygiene for school students.

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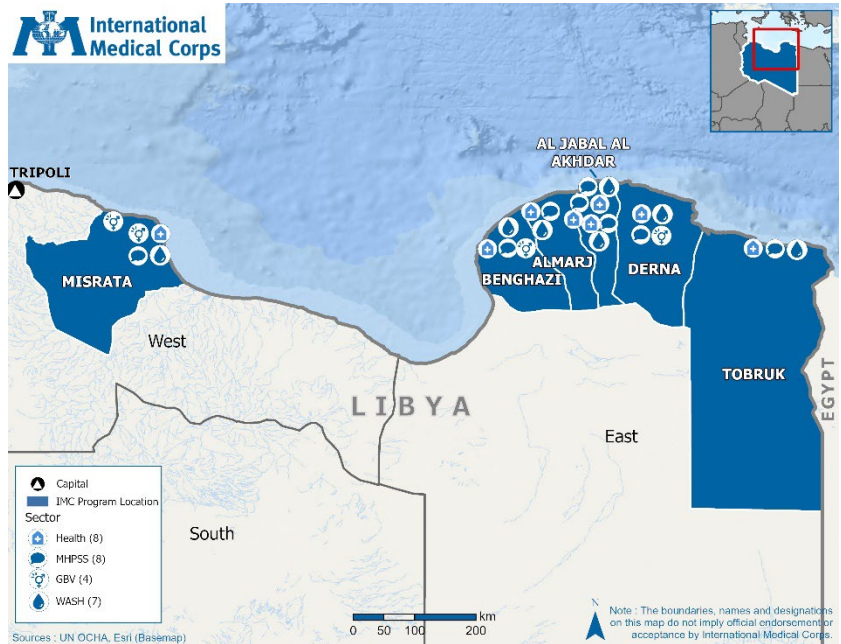
## Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

International Medical Corps has supported Libya's national helpline by providing mental health counselors. Since its inception, our counselors have managed 4,605 calls, conducting MHPSS consultations with 406 people (273 women and 133 men). The remaining calls primarily involved inquiries about available services, which our staff promptly addressed through appropriate referrals. The MHPSS sessions covered a comprehensive array of components, including PFA, stress management, counseling, emotional support and psychoeducation. Trends include a higher proportion of women callers and an equal distribution between residents of directly affected areas like Al Bayda, Benghazi and Derna, as well as IDPs in and around Tripoli. Since January, our team—including mental health counselors and case managers—has initiated mental health consultations in Albayda, Albayyada, Benghazi, Derna, Misrata, Tobruk and Tokra. To date, we have conducted 330 consultations (223 women, 107 men).

We launched a focused initiative in February, conducting PFA training in the eastern region of Libya. This program was planned for medical and paramedical staff operating at PHCCs and equipped them with the essential skills to provide immediate psychological support to those in need. Made possible through close collaboration with the national MHPSS committee, the initiative targeted people from cities in the region such as Albayda, Albayyada, Derna, Sousa and Tobruk, ensuring a wide-reaching impact. This effort underscores the commitment to enhancing the capacity of healthcare providers to deliver comprehensive care that addresses the community's physical and mental health needs.

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

International Medical Corps conducted an assessment of 24 health facilities in Albayda, Albayyada, Benghazi, Derna, Shahat, Tokra and Tobruk, pinpointing the pressing need to upgrade water and sanitation infrastructure. The finding also underscores the critical need for enhancing water quality through desalination plant installation and conducting infection



prevention and control training. In Derna's Alsaheil area, our team delivered 7,488,000 liters of clean water to flood-affected communities, benefiting 2,496 families and 15,559 individuals. Our team ensures water-quality monitoring during transportation, with 708 trucks delivering 12,000 liters each. We installed three 5,000-liter bladder tanks in Derna's health facility and community, and plan to install 13 more at health facilities in affected areas in Derna and Tobruk city. Additionally, we installed 32 polyethylene tanks with a 2,000-liter capacity for the most affected households in Derna. We also distributed 966 water jerry cans of 10 liters each and 1,628 water purification tablets, providing 330 households with a reliable means of accessing safe drinking water.

International Medical initiated water and sanitation infrastructure rehabilitation in eight health facilities in Derna, Tobruk, and Tokara, enhancing WASH infrastructure in healthcare facilities and improving service delivery. As part of hygiene promotion and awareness campaigns, our hygiene promotion team conducted 1,143 sessions that reached 5,117 people (1,614 men, 1,191 boys, 1,169 women and 1,143 girls) in Abu Raheel, Al-Fatah, Alsaheili, Dar Alslam and Sousa. The sessions covered the causes, symptoms and prevention of acute watery diarrhea, as well as the principles of proper handwashing, safe water storage and water treatment.

### Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

International Medical Corps' GBV teams have supported 536 women and girls affected by the floods, offering prevention and response support such as awareness campaigns and psychosocial assistance. Activities aim to foster safe space for women and girls to express themselves, enhancing community resilience in Benghazi, Derna, Misrata and Tawergha. Additionally, we distributed 42 dignity kits to women and girls in Derna and Tripoli.

In March, the GBV teams—in collaboration with local organizations—celebrated International Women's Day in Benghazi and Derna, spotlighting the achievements of Libyan women's historical achievements and their role in flood-response efforts.

## OUR RESPONSE IN NUMBERS

HEALTH		
21,240 outpatient health consultations delivered (12,778 women, 8,462 men)	7,973 people educated on health-related topics (4,504 women, 3,469 men)	
WASH		
7,488,000 liters of water distributed to 2,496 households	12,000 of 6-liter bottles and 18,800 of 7-liter packaged drinking water were distributed to 9,800 people in Derna	5,117 people sensitized on WASH-related topics
NFIs (490 mattresses, 686 blankets) distributed to 1,176 people in Derna and Misrata		
MHPSS		
4,605 received calls through MHPSS national hotline	406 people provided with remote MHPSS consultations (273 women and 133 men)	
330 MHPSS in-person consultations (223 women, 107 men)		
GBV		
536 people reached through GBV services (510 women, 26 men)	20 people trained or oriented on GBV-related topics (15 women, 5 men)	