The humanitarian situation in the northeastern region of Libya remains precarious after the devastating flooding of September 10, 2023,¹ 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.

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 Al Bayda, Al Bayyada, 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.

**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 Al Bayda, Al Bayyada, 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 Al Bayda, Al Bayyada, 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 Al Bayda, Al Bayyada, 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 Alsahil 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, Alsahli, 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**

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