



*International Medical Corps staff members distribute hygiene kits.*

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. International Medical Corps—which provided extensive emergency response services immediately after the flooding—performed a needs assessment in February 2024 and found persisting humanitarian and early-recovery needs. Months after the disaster, health facilities are still facing shortages of medical supplies, medical personnel and hygiene supplies, as well as compromised water quality. Rural health facilities need specialist doctors to manage increasing non-communicable/chronic diseases and qualified pharmacists to manage the supply of medicines effectively. People living in Derna—especially in the Alfatayeh area—have to travel long distances to access essential health services like physiotherapy, posing barriers for people with disabilities.

The aftermath of the storm is still affecting the well-being of communities. Numerous cases of severe mental health and psychosocial issues are being reported by our team, increasingly with the apparent signs and symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Children and youths who survived the devastating storm are exhibiting severe psychological distress, including fear of a recurrence, bedwetting, nightmares, withdrawal, confusion, lack of concentration, etc. These issues visibly and profoundly disrupt their daily lives. Healthcare providers are also grappling with challenging circumstances as they try to cope with the loss of loved ones, homes and livelihoods while being responsible for providing support to others. Women being left to manage households due to deaths, injuries or the absence of male family members during the flood face difficulty in generating an income and accessing necessities. Women and girls are further exposed to risk due to the breakdown of support networks, movement restrictions and a lack of safe spaces.

Recently, people began crossing into Libya from Sudan due to the unstable security situation there, particularly in the Darfur region. Our team is closely monitoring the situation and is looking for pre-positioning of supplies and potential expansion of services relating to needs in Al Khufra, Libya, in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### FAST FACTS

- The devastating September storm and dam breaches in Derna caused 11,300 casualties and forced approximately 40,000 residents to evacuate.
- Derna, Sousa, Al Bayada, and Al Makhaili are among the communities grappling with the lasting effects of the disaster, and urgently require medical care, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services.

### 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 10 EMT Type 1 teams—seven mobile units and three stationed at fixed facilities in Albayda, Albayyada, Benghazi, Derna, Misrata, Sousa, Tobruk and Tokra. These teams have conducted 29,457 health consultations so far.
- To respond to critical WASH needs, we have distributed almost 10.8 million liters of water through water trucking, 1,300 20-liter jerry cans and 23,800 7-liter bottles of water.
- We have delivered 600 in-person MHPSS 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

International Medical Corps has deployed 10 Type 1 Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) to provide critical healthcare services in Libya. Three of these EMTs are stationed at fixed locations, while seven are mobile units covering 25 health facilities across eight municipalities, including Albayda, Albayyada, Benghazi, Derna, Misrata, Sousa, Tobruk and Tokra. The health facilities under the coverage of these EMTs comprise five hospitals, three polyclinics and 17 primary healthcare centers. 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 29,457 outpatient consultations (17,938 women and 11,519 men) in areas affected by flooding and the movement of internally displaced persons.

In collaboration with Derna health district office and Libyan Emergency Medicine Association (LEMA), International Medical Corps organized a three-day training session for Ministry of Health (MoH) general physicians to improve medical emergency skills, knowledge and preparedness. The training involved 28 participants (15 women and 13 men) nominated by the health district offices across 10 health facilities in the region. Facilitated by health specialists from LEMA, it focused on basic life support and advanced cardio-pulmonary life support guidelines and skills, as part of our collaborative capacity-development plan with relevant health authorities.

Our health teams also provided two comprehensive, two-day training sessions in Derna and Tokra covering the basics of physiotherapy services in primary healthcare settings, involving 34 MoH healthcare staff (21 women and 13 men). The training equipped participants with the skills needed to provide basic physiotherapy services, enabling them to address the needs of people with disability who had previously been required to travel long distances to access similar services.

The teams have so far conducted 113 on-the-job tutorials for 939 healthcare providers (704 women and 235 men) at supported health facilities, focusing on practical skills and knowledge, such as emergency first aid at primary health centers, proper dispensing practices, vital signs assessment, electrocardiogram basics and basic laboratory skills.

In parallel, our community health workers (CHWs) have conducted 3,205 awareness sessions in all supported locations, engaging 10,610 participants (6,275 women and 4,335 men) in the community. Throughout April, our CHWs continued their school visits in collaboration with the education office, enhancing awareness of 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)

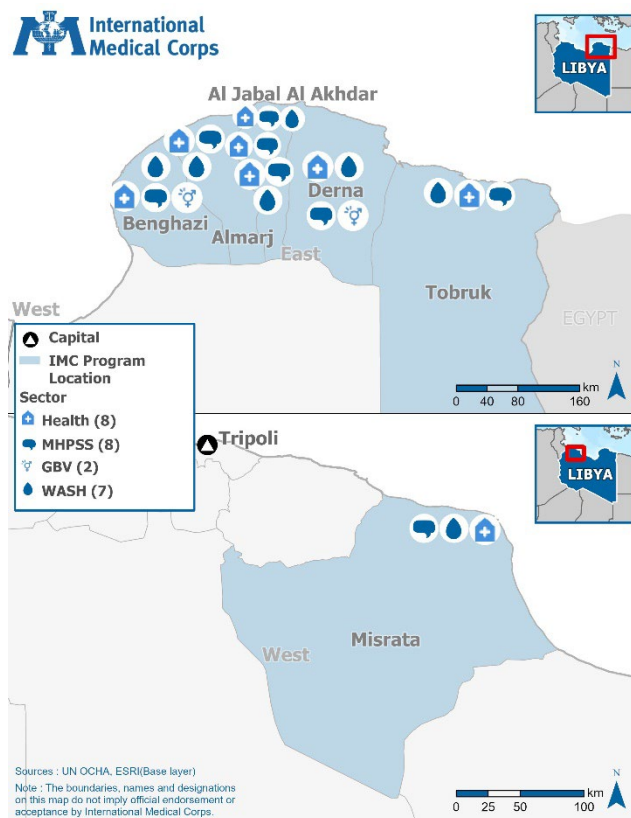
International Medical Corps continues to address psychological distress and enhance the well-being of individuals in Libya through a multifaceted approach: strengthening local capacity via training and supervision, and providing direct mental health consultations in various modalities, including remote and in-person sessions.

Through our partnership with the Citizen Service Center, the national helpline remains a vital resource for MHPSS consultations, promoting self-reliance and well-being. The helpline has facilitated 6,066 consultations, conducting MHPSS consultations with 507 people (341 women and 166 men). The remaining calls primarily involved inquiries about available services, which our staff promptly addressed through appropriate referrals. The MHPSS team and beneficiaries say this approach helped them to freely express their concerns without fear of judgment and access the service from any location, effectively breaking down geographical barriers and fear of stigma.

Additionally, 600 people (386 women and 214 men) received in-person MHPSS consultations, benefiting from evidence-based non-pharmacological techniques such as stress management, problem-solving therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy and interpersonal therapy.

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

In response to the lack of access to safe water and modern sanitation caused by the flooding, we have delivered 10.8 million liters of clean water to flood-affected communities through 902 trucks delivering 12,000 liters each, benefiting



3,608 families (22,192 individuals). We have distributed hygiene kits to 4,655 vulnerable households in Derna. We also distributed 2,666 10-liter and 1,300 20-liter jerry cans as well as 55,200 water purification boxes, providing 1,183 households with a reliable means of accessing safe drinking water. Our teams have provided the spare parts and personal protective equipment needed to support operation of the desalination plant in Derna, which serves an estimated 15,000 people. We installed four 5,000-liter bladder tanks in four of Derna's health facilities and two water distribution points in the community in the Alshahil area.

As part of hygiene promotion and awareness campaigns, our hygiene promotion team conducted 2,037 information sessions that reached 17,037 people (3,543 men, 4,784 boys, 4,121 women and 4,589 girls) in Abu Raheel, Al-Fatah, Alshahil, Dar Alslam and Sousa. The sessions covered the causes, symptoms and prevention of acute watery diarrhea, as well as the principles of proper handwashing and safe water storage.

International Medical initiated water and sanitation infrastructure rehabilitation in 11 health facilities in Albayda, Derna, Tobruk and Tokra, improving service quality and promoting inclusive services for women, children, the elderly and people living with disabilities. We have rehabilitated Five health facilities, benefiting 33,500 people.

### Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Since the beginning of the response efforts, International Medical Corps has been actively providing gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and interventions. Our team successfully engaged 679 affected women and adolescent girls to enhance awareness of GBV, providing psychosocial health and recreational psychosocial support activities in Benghazi, Derna and Misrata. Various activities, such as beading, coloring and crocheting, focused on providing women with a safe space to build friendships, promote self-care and express their thoughts and struggles without judgment.

We distributed 660 dignity kits to women and girls in Benghazi, Derna and Tripoli, reaching vulnerable and at-risk women affected by the flood, as well as lactating and pregnant women. The kits addressed their unique needs, ensuring access to necessary hygiene items that promote the well-being of women and girls.

Our team also engages women and girls in focused group discussions to evaluate their needs and gaps in services, as well as the challenges and risks they face accessing what is available, to ensure community-centric interventions.

### OUR RESPONSE IN NUMBERS

HEALTH		
29,457 outpatient health consultations delivered (17,938 women, 11,519 men)	10,610 people educated on health-related topics (6,275 women, 4,335 men)	
WASH		
10,824,000 liters of water distributed to 3,608 households	12,000 of 6-liter bottles and 23,800 of 7-liter packaged drinking water distributed to 12,300 people in Derna	17,037 people sensitized on WASH-related topics (8,710 women, 8,327 men)
Non-food items (hygiene kits) distributed to 4,655 people in Derna		
MHPSS		
6,066 received calls through MHPSS national hotline	507 people provided with remote MHPSS consultations (341 women, 166 men)	
600 MHPSS in-person consultations (386 women, 214 men)		
GBV		
679 people reached through GBV services (653 women, 26 men)	21 people trained or oriented on GBV-related topics (16 women, 5 men)	
Non-food items (dignity kits) distributed to 660 people in Benghazi, Derna and Tripoli		