

SITUATION UPDATE



International Medical Corps has screened nearly 1,000 children under 5 in Lebanon for malnutrition since September 23.

The unrelenting conflict in the Middle East has led to immense destruction of civilian infrastructure, mass displacement and thousands of civilian casualties. The situation continues to deteriorate in the region, especially given the barriers to the facilitation of humanitarian aid in the North Gaza governorate and the escalating violence in Lebanon. Tensions have reached beyond Gaza and Lebanon, with airstrikes also being reported in Syria and Yemen, further threatening the humanitarian conditions across the Middle East.¹

International Medical Corps Response

In 2023, International Medical Corps provided direct services to more than 5 million people across the Middle East. In response to conflict across the region, International Medical Corps has rapidly scaled up operations across Gaza and the West Bank, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen, providing a holistic, integrated and coordinated response.

Gaza and the West Bank

A near total lack of humanitarian aid, severe communications disruptions and ongoing bombardments, particularly in the North Gaza governorate, have further deteriorated an already dire humanitarian situation. In the past three weeks, more than 71,000 people have been displaced from North Gaza to Gaza City, with approximately 100,000 people remaining in the north. Emergency authorities have been forced to discontinue operations—which include lifesaving firefighting, search-and-rescue and medical services—in North Gaza. The lack of essential services has been further compounded by severe shortages of food, clean water, medical supplies and adequate shelters.²

FAST FACTS

- Over the past year in Gaza, at least 43,061 Palestinians have been killed and more than 101,000 injured, according to OCHA.
- In Lebanon, there have been 3,002 deaths and 13,492 injuries due to the recent conflict.
- 361,300 Syrian nationals and 177,864 Lebanese citizens have been documented crossing into Syria.
- Airstrikes have intensified in Yemen, a country already contending with an ongoing civil war, natural disasters, outbreaks of disease and severe food insecurity.

OUR FOOTPRINT

- In Gaza, International Medical Corps operates two field hospitals in Deir Al Balah and Al Zawaida, with nearly 1,000 staff.
- In Lebanon, International Medical Corps' 288 national staff members are supporting 53 primary healthcare centers (PHCCs) and has deployed 43 primary healthcare satellite units (PSUs).
- In Syria, our 255 staff members provide services through 13 mobile medical teams (MMTs) and two PHCCs.
- In Yemen, our 159 staff members across four field offices serve communities in eight of the country's 23 governorates.

OUR RESPONSE

- International Medical Corps has reached more than 218,800 people in Gaza with critically needed healthcare services.
- The 43 PSUs we are operating in Lebanon have visited 166 shelters, distributed more than 5,400 hygiene kits and delivered more than 11,100 consultations to internally displaced persons since September 23.
- Between October 7–30, International Medical Corps' MMTs in Syria have reached more than 3,000 patients with consultations.
- To support water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) needs in Yemen, our teams have delivered cholera kits to nearly 14,000 people and provided 40,418 consultations.

¹ <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/we-are-most-dangerous-juncture-middle-east-decades-warns-special-coordinator-urging-all-efforts-de-escalate-situation>

² <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/humanitarian-situation-update-233-gaza-strip-enarhe>

In response to the widespread devastation and increasing needs, International Medical Corps currently has two field hospitals located in central Gaza: one in Deir Al Balah and one in Al Zawaida, with a total capacity of more than 250 beds, including 20 in the Emergency Room and 170 in the surgical department. Our Deir Al Balah facility, which specializes in lifesaving surgical trauma care, offers a range of additional services, including physical rehabilitation, comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care, nutrition, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), child protection, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and support, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services.

Our Al Zawaida location, which initially focused on outpatient care, has recently expanded to include inpatient capacity for post-operative care, sexual and reproductive health (SRH), pediatrics, orthopedics, surgical consultations, pulmonology/cardiology and psychiatric services. The Al Zawaida site also acts as a hub for our multi-sectoral activities, with designated areas for our child-friendly spaces under child protection, a women and girls' safe space (WGSS) for providing GBV services, and individual and group counselling spaces for MHPSS and nutrition.

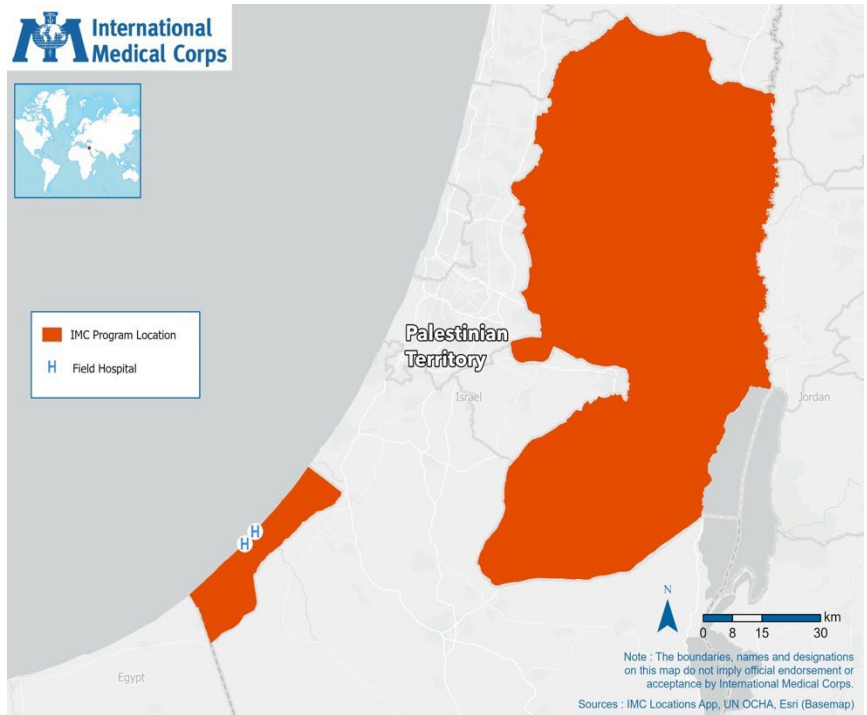
Since the opening of our first field hospital near Rafah in January, our teams have reached more than 218,800 people with comprehensive healthcare services. Of these, more than 90,000 consultations were for communicable diseases, with acute watery diarrhea, hepatitis A and skin diseases being the most-common morbidities. Most patients presenting with communicable diseases are pediatric patients. In terms of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), most consultations have been related to hypertension (27%), diabetes (13%), ischemic heart diseases (10%) and chronic respiratory diseases (6%). Exacerbated NCDs remain one of the most common reasons for seeking treatment in our emergency room.

Since January 2024, International Medical Corps has responded to more than 50 mass casualty incidents—rapidly scaling up capacity. The team has performed more than 7,783 surgeries, with approximately 32% categorized as either major or moderate surgeries, including cesarean sections, thoracotomies and laparotomies. Of all the surgeries performed, nearly half (46%) have been orthopedic surgeries, with some 284 external fixators inserted to save the functioning of patients' lower or upper limbs.

In addition to providing surgical interventions, International Medical Corps also provides physiotherapy and rehabilitation sessions across both inpatient and outpatient departments. To date, the team has provided more than 9,800 sessions to support patients at our field hospitals.

International Medical Corps has screened more than 101,000 people for malnutrition via our "Find and Treat" campaign and within our field hospitals. Under our nutrition programming, we have also provided micronutrient supplementation for more than 30,100 people and awareness sessions for more than 19,700 people on how to improve infant and young-child (IYCF) feeding in emergencies.

Along with our health and nutrition activities, International Medical Corps provides protection services—including child protection (CP), MHPSS and GBV—at both field hospitals. For CP, International Medical Corps provides structured psychosocial and skills-building programs, non-structured activities, structured sessions for parents individual counseling and case management. Nearly 18,000 children and caregivers have participated in our CP programs. For MHPSS, International Medical Corps provides individual and group psychosocial support via psychosocial workers and psychologists. More than 4,000 people have received individual psychosocial support services, with the average duration of care being two months. For GBV, International Medical Corps has established a WGSS where women and girls participate in group empowerment sessions, yoga, life skills and other socialization activities. International Medical Corps also has a team of GBV case managers who provide comprehensive case management and referrals for GBV survivors. All survivors receive at least four sessions of case management, with the team having so far provided care for more than 450 women. More than 22,000 women and girls have accessed services—including group sessions, WGSS and case management services—via our GBV team.



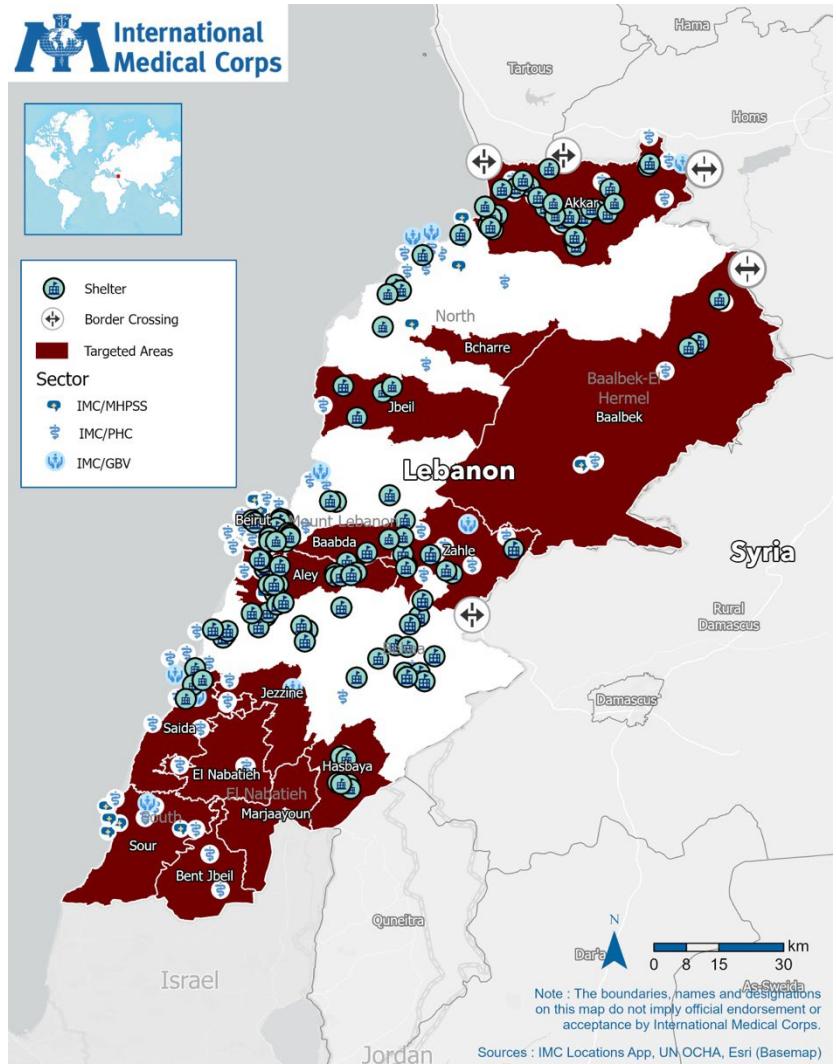
International Medical Corps' WASH team has been critical in the establishment and operation of our field hospitals, ensuring that patients, providers, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities have access to WASH and infection prevention and control (IPC) services. We have provided a continuous clean water supply that has benefitted nearly 200,000 people, and conducted hygiene awareness activities for more than 21,000 people focused on key health and hygiene themes such as IPC, hand hygiene and polio vaccination.

In the West Bank, International Medical Corps is partnering with local organizations to provide MHPSS capacity-building activities and services for vulnerable populations. We have so far trained 399 people in MHPSS topics—including detection and referral, psychological first aid (PFA) and self-care. Through our partnerships, we have provided 3,594 health consultations, responded to 2,099 helpline calls, provided GBV and psychosocial support (PSS) awareness-raising sessions for 725 women and delivered PSS activities to 3,622 people.

Lebanon

Lebanon has been severely impacted by the escalating conflict and is now struggling with an overwhelming humanitarian crisis. Essential services have been disrupted, critical infrastructure has been damaged and hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced.³ Airstrikes have continued across the country, including in Baalbek, Bekaa, Mount Lebanon, Nabatieh and South Lebanon governorates. Since October 8, 2023, the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has reported 3,002 fatalities and more than 13,492 injuries. Currently, there are 1,133 officially recognized shelters for IDPs in Lebanon, with 957 of these shelters having reached their maximum capacity. The ongoing displacement continues, as people flee areas frequently targeted by attacks in search of safer locations. The total number of registered IDPs has reached 190,083, comprising 44,041 families, with the highest concentrations observed in the Mount Lebanon governorate and Beirut. The actual number of displaced people is likely significantly higher than the registered figures.⁴

International Medical Corps-supported primary healthcare centers (PHCCs) have conducted 71,482 consultations at since September 23, including 16,547 consultations provided to IDPs. International Medical Corps currently supports 53 facilities in Lebanon, 44 of which are currently operational. We also have provided medical supplies and equipment to these health facilities to enhance their operational capacity, and we have further extended our health services to shelters through 43 primary healthcare satellite units (PSUs) supporting 166 shelters. Through these units, we have delivered 11,132 consultations to IDPs, including more than 600 reproductive health consultations. Additionally, we have provided essential acute and chronic medications to 10,195 IDPs following PSU consultations. We have identified more than 600 suspected cases of disease with outbreak potential, and referred these cases to the MoPH for further investigation. Furthermore, we have conducted awareness-raising sessions for 2,838 people across various communities, focusing on hygiene promotion, nutrition for pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) and proper IYCF practices. We also have referred of 47 patients to hospitals for specialized services, provided services at our supported PHCCs to 782 IDPs residing in shelters and immunized 256 children. Out of the 192 shelters designated for our supported PHCCs, our PSUs have visited 166. We have distributed 5,472 hygiene kits, including family hygiene kits, menstrual hygiene kits and baby kits.



³ <https://www.iom.int/lebanon-humanitarian-crisis>

⁴ <https://drmlc.com/portal/apps/sites/#/daily-situation-report>

We have provided guidance on IYCF to 968 caregivers of children aged 0–59 months, screened 990 children under 5 and 218 PLWs for malnutrition, and distributed 298 micronutrient supplements to 150 children. We have distributed 900 lipid-based nutrient supplement bags to 30 PLWs and provided ready-to-use complementary feeding packages to eight children aged 6–23 months. We also have provided assistive devices and supplies—including 29 hearing aids, 71 mobility assistive devices and 560 diapers—tailored to the special needs of 67 IDPs residing in shelters and 89 persons who are elderly and/or live with disabilities.

Across four hospitals, International Medical Corps has initiated coverage of secondary-care services for patients referred from PHCCs and shelters, including normal and high-risk pregnancies, and emergency care, and hospitalizations for children under 5 diagnosed with acute malnutrition or other acute conditions. We have financially supported emergency services for 84 patients and hospitalization for two children, in addition to covering the delivery costs for three pregnant women, one of whom was classified as high-risk.

Our case workers and social workers have facilitated GBV awareness sessions for 1,457 IDPs and conducted 60 GBV consultations. We have provided 430 PFA sessions, delivered emergency cash assistance for six GBV survivors, linked 52 people to other services and distributed 323 dignity kits for women and girls among IDPs in the southern region. Beyond collective shelters, we have supported both IDPs and non-IDP women and girls through remote and static WGSS activities and community outreach. Our GBV team has facilitated 32 PFA sessions, provided GBV awareness sessions for 206 participants, conducted 48 non-GBV consultations and delivered 15 GBV consultations.

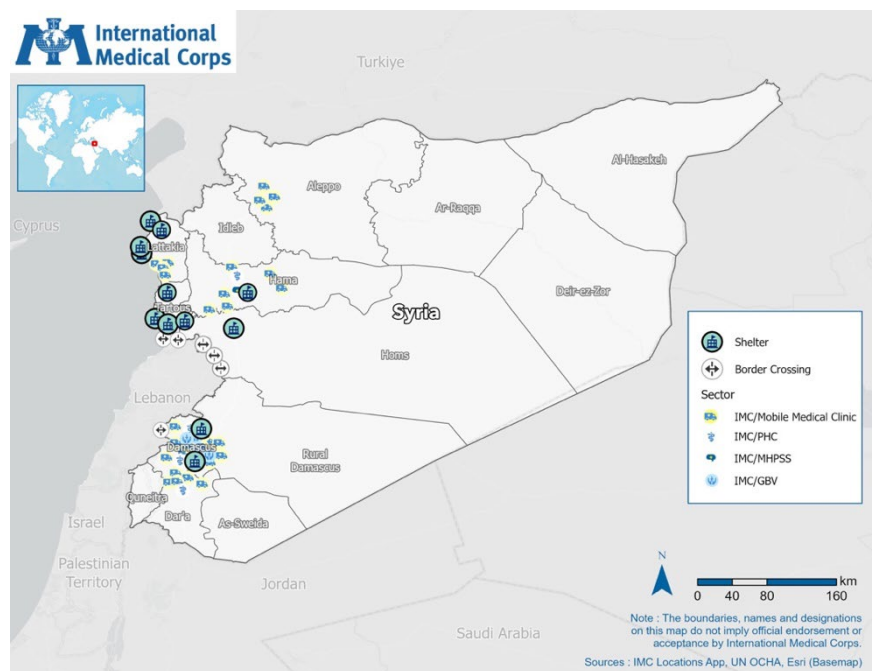
As part of our MHPSS initiatives integrated into the PSUs, our mental health social workers and case managers have conducted 1,803 PSS consultations with PFA messaging through PSU visits to 49 shelters since the escalation of the crisis. Our teams have referred 184 cases requiring specialized mental health consultations to case management teams based in PHCCs, with provisions for remote consultations when necessary. We continue to facilitate MHPSS training sessions in collaboration with the National Mental Health Program, so far reaching 300 people across eight organizations, and have supported two training-of-trainers sessions focused on PFA to meet the high demand among various frontline workers and organizations, emphasizing safe identification and referral to MHPSS services. Additionally, we have made an emergency staff care support initiative available for frontline healthcare workers, offering tailored mental health support through in-person counseling, tele-mental health or group sessions, to help them cope with heightened stress levels.

Syria

In Syria—a country increasingly weakened by 14 years of conflict and crisis—humanitarian conditions are deteriorating, particularly for more than 7 million IDPs and recent arrivals affected by violence in Lebanon. According to the UNHCR, Lebanon has recorded as of October 25 that 71% of those crossing into Syria are Syrian citizens, while 29% are Lebanese citizens, for a total of more than 440,000 people. In early October, there was a 30% surge in arrivals at the primary border crossings of Homs, although this influx has since slightly decreased. Observations indicate that Lebanese families predominately crossed at Jesr Al Kamar, while the Dabbousieh crossing was primarily used by Syrians.

Since October 5, more than 40 hosting centers have been established across Damascus, Rural Damascus, Hama, Homs, Latakia and Tartous, providing shelter to vulnerable families. Currently, nearly 2,000 Lebanese families—approximately 10,000 individuals—are being accommodated in these centers, with the highest concentration in the Homs region. In Rural Damascus, the Harjeley hosting center alone is accommodating 262 families (950 individuals), while in Tartous and Latakia 1,069 Lebanese families (1,558 individuals) are residing in 10 hosting centers and a reception center. In Homs and Hama, 142 Lebanese families (553 individuals) are residing in six hosting centers.

In the past five weeks, 9,985 families (50,779 individuals) have also arrived in northeastern Syria, primarily heading to Ar-Raqqa governorate, followed by Deir-ez-Zor and Al-Hasakeh governorates. The regional crisis, compounded by economic



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hardship, climate change, communicable disease outbreaks, reduced humanitarian funding and limited basic services, has intensified the urgent need for humanitarian assistance.⁵

International Medical Corps provides a variety of services in Syria, including primary and secondary care, pediatric care, MHPSS services, sexual and reproductive health and nutritional screenings. To enhance the effectiveness of our response, International Medical Corps deployed four response MMTs to serve the influx of displaced people from Lebanon. The first MMT began operations in the first week of October in Al Sayedah Zaynab city (Rural Damascus), while the second medical mobile team began in the first week of November, focusing on the Al Amin and Zain El Abidin neighborhoods (Damascus) and Mleihah (Rural Damascus). The third and fourth teams will support the governorates Homs and Latakia, visiting shelters in Rableh town, the Al Qusaier area in Homs (Virgin Mary Center and Mar Elias Monastery) and Al Qusaier Primary Health Center in Homs governorate, as well as Ras Al-Basit, Jableh countryside and Al Karnak shelter in Latakia.

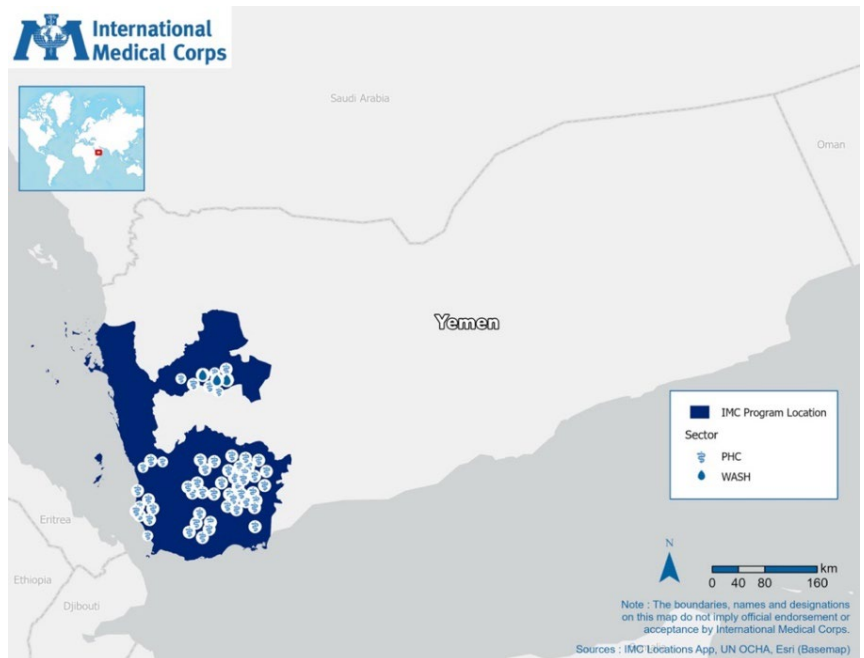
From October 7–30, International Medical Corps' MMTs conducted 3,560 consultations for 3,083 patients. Additionally, we referred 11 patients to hospitals for secondary healthcare. The teams also provided 101 mental health consultations and 35 CP consultations. The people helped by our response consisted of 31% Lebanese and 69% Syrian individuals.

Yemen

The humanitarian crisis in Yemen ranks among the world's worst, with more than 18.2 million people in need of humanitarian assistance due to the ongoing civil war, climate-induced natural disasters and severe food insecurity. The regional conflict in the Middle East is extending into Yemen, with ongoing attacks on vessels in the Red Sea and multiple airstrikes reported.⁶ The most recent outbreak of acute watery diarrhea (AWD)/cholera that began more than six months ago has further exacerbated the humanitarian situation in Yemen. The Yemen WASH cluster has reported 207,747 suspected cases across all governorates since mid-March, with children under 5 and the elderly accounting for approximately one-quarter of all cases.⁷

In Yemen, International Medical Corps provides integrated health, WASH, nutrition, MHPSS, child protection and GBV services across seven governorates in the north and south. Most recently, our teams have been responding to the AWD/cholera outbreak that was further exacerbated by recent flooding. Since the beginning of the year, we have provided 40,418 consultations through healthcare facilities and diarrhea treatment centers, reached 14,684 people with water trucking and delivered cholera kits that have directly benefitted 13,938 people.

To best prepare for further expansion of the conflict into Yemen and ensure the continuity of care, our teams have updated our contingency plans and procured buffer stocks of essential supplies.



⁵ <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/112078>

⁶ <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/u-s-new-airstrikes-houthi-targets-yemen-b-2-bombers/>

⁷ <https://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/yemen-humanitarian-update-issue-6-augustseptember-2024-enar>