



International Medical Corps volunteer nurse Yvonne Groenhout provides wound care to a shelter resident in Buncombe County, NC.

It has been more than a month since back-to-back major Hurricanes Helene and Milton both made landfall in Florida, leaving at least 255 dead and lasting devastation in communities across Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas and Tennessee. The Category 4 and Category 3 hurricanes destroyed critical infrastructure including major roads, homes and buildings, and severely incapacitated the power grid and water and sewage systems.

The storms left thousands of individuals and families unhoused and without access to power, potable water, food or medical care. Entire communities in affected areas—including the hard-hit Buncombe County, North Carolina, home to the city of Asheville—are still without potable water over five weeks later, with the earliest estimations of a full system restoration at early 2025. The damages to the power grid also persist, as thousands of households and businesses remain without power. The hurricanes are estimated to have together caused as much as \$300 billion in damage and economic loss. Impacted communities continue debris cleanup and road repairs, with agricultural and rural areas facing extraordinary losses.

As students return to school and businesses reopen, residents remain exceedingly vulnerable to numerous challenges, including an increased risk of communicable disease, contaminated mud, non-operational sanitation systems, reduced access to potable water, worsening of existing health conditions, disrupted and decreased access to healthcare, lost wages and shelter, and increased mental stress.

International Medical Corps' Response

In **Florida**, International Medical Corps is coordinating closely with the Florida Association of Community Health Centers (FACHC), existing health facility partners, and county- and state-run distribution centers to identify and disseminate urgently needed emergency supplies, equipment and other items in response to **Hurricane Milton**. One of the largest

FAST FACTS

- **Hurricane Helene** and **Hurricane Milton** made landfall in Florida less than two weeks apart as Category 4 and Category 3 hurricanes, causing at least 255 deaths and extensive infrastructure damage across Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas and Tennessee. Many affected communities across several states have yet to regain power or access to clean water.
- The long-term implications of the storm are extensive, with economic and property losses from Hurricane Helene alone anticipated to be as much as \$250 billion.
- In 2024, there have been **17 named Atlantic storms**, including **six hurricanes** that have made landfall in the United States and territories. These storms have caused more than **320 deaths** in the US and territories alone.

OUR RESPONSE

- In response to **Hurricane Helene**, International Medical Corps deployed teams to Florida, Georgia and North Carolina, and is supporting partners in Tennessee.
- In North Carolina, International Medical Corps has deployed 47 volunteers to provide medical and behavioral health services in three shelters and one community-care station in Buncombe County, where hard-hit Asheville is located. To date, the team has provided 1,740 clinical encounters, including 1,256 administrations of over-the-counter medications, and 343 medical and 141 behavioral health consultations.
- In response to **Hurricane Milton**, International Medical Corps is coordinating with the Florida Association of Community Health Centers (FACHC) and two local federally qualified health-center networks to meet urgent needs.
- To date, across affected states, International Medical Corps has distributed 1,512 wound-care kits, 10,144 hygiene kits and 20,441 hygiene items, including first-aid supplies, mosquito repellent, handwashing stations and water bladders, as well as 20 portable toilets, 14 1,000-gallon water tanks and 6,000 gallons of potable water, to 80 health centers and local partners.

federally qualified health center (FQHC) networks in Florida, located south of Tampa, was heavily impacted by Hurricane Milton and has reported the closure of four health facilities due to severe damages—including a specialized care clinic for individuals with chronic illnesses. International Medical Corps is working to support the reopening of these facilities.

Across **Georgia, North Carolina** and **Tennessee**, International Medical Corps is continuing our response to the impacts of **Hurricane Helene**. To date, we have facilitated the shipment and distribution of 10,144 hygiene kits, 1,512 wound-care kits, and 20,441 hygiene and emergency items to 80 sites—including health facilities, community centers and recovery centers—across the region. International Medical Corps has also provided 1,000-gallon water tanks to 14 clinics, as well as 6,000 gallons of potable water and 20 portable toilets to health facilities, to ensure the restoration and continuation of operations and services.

In **North Carolina**, International Medical Corps is continuing to deliver medical and behavioral health services to residents living in Buncombe County. Since beginning services on October 13, we have deployed a total of 47 local and out-of-state professionals—including doctors, mental health clinicians, nurses, pharmacists and clinical social workers—to provide essential medical and behavioral healthcare. To date, the team has provided care in four sites, including one medical needs shelter, two general-population shelters and one medical mobile unit (MMU). The MMU is located at a community-care station where community members can receive hot food and water, use WiFi and are able to take care of activities of daily living, such as showering and laundry. Given the increased threat of seasonal illnesses, our teams continue to provide screening for COVID and influenza, and have successfully utilized isolation accommodations for one COVID patient and one patient with a suspected case of scabies, helping to prevent the further spread of communicable diseases among this population.

As the community turns toward long-term recovery, services provided at the medical-needs shelter closed on October 21 and one general-population shelter closed on October 30. All residents of these shelters were successfully relocated to the remaining shelter, and the majority have transitioned back to home or alternative housing. As many residents transition to long-term living situations, the need for care in the shelter is declining and the team has adjusted its service hours from 24 hours to 15 hours of care per day; providing care at one general-population shelter from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily and at the MMU from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. We will continue providing these services until MMU the closes on November 7 and the shelter closes on November 9.

The behavioral health team is working to provide solution-focused services as residents prepare to transition out of the shelter. To date, International Medical Corps has provided 1,740 clinical encounters, including 1,256 administrations of over-the-counter medications, and 343 medical and 141 behavioral health consultations, at all service sites.

International Medical Corps continues to coordinate with local partners—including the North Carolina Primary Care Association (PCA), the National Association of Rural Health Clinics and the National Association of Community Health Centers—to support the needs of FQHC and community health partners across the state. With International Medical Corps' support, 20 health centers in the state that were offline in the wake of Hurricane Helene are now operational. International Medical Corps has provided 14 health centers with 1,000-gallon water tanks, 10 health centers with two portable toilets each, and 6,000 gallons of potable water to health centers—including rural and hard-to-reach facilities—as part of ongoing support to meet urgent and essential water and sanitation needs. In addition to water supplies, we have provided the 14 health centers with portable showers, camping toilets, handwashing stations, tables, chairs, tarps and canopies.

International Medical Corps is working closely with the Buncombe County Department of Health and Human Services, and the Red Cross, to ensure a smooth and effective transition. As our team of volunteers prepares to transition out, we are connecting with local health centers and partners to ensure continued support, including the appropriate and strategic distribution of remaining medical and non-medical equipment and supplies, including various pharmaceuticals and IV fluids. This is critical, as hospitals and health centers around the country have been operating under a severe IV fluid shortage since Hurricane Helene hit in September—the flooding from the storm significantly damaged a large IV production factory in North Carolina that was responsible for nearly 60% of the US supply of IV fluids.

In **Tennessee**, International Medical Corps is supporting two FQHC networks by delivering essential vaccines and emergency preparedness and response equipment, including a shipment this week of first-aid kits, items to help with water, sanitation and hygiene, and other relief supplies. To date, we have provided 200 doses of tetanus vaccines and 200 doses of hepatitis A vaccines, and more than 3,000 hygiene items, including hand sanitizer, diapers, insect repellent



International Medical Corps volunteer nurse Carlton Purvis monitors a shelter resident's cardiac rhythm with telemetry monitoring.

and sinks; 1,200 medical-supply items, first-aid kits and insulin cookers; and 200 relief and recovery supplies, including work gloves and batteries. The team continues to coordinate closely with local partners to understand and support their needs as services and operations are restored.

In **Georgia**, International Medical Corps is partnering with an FQHC in Augusta to meet urgent needs for supplies, including adult and baby diapers, wipes, formula, food, hygiene kits and supplies, blankets, flashlights, trash bags and heaters, among other items. International Medical Corps also continues to coordinate with Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency, the Georgia PCA, the Georgia Department of Public Health’s Emergency Medical Services and several other FQHC networks to support their ongoing needs.

In **Florida**, International Medical Corps continues to support the recovery of health centers affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton. This week, International Medical Corps will co-host the second annual [Emergency Management Summit](#), in partnership with FACHC. This two-day summit will convene 120 representatives from more than 50 Florida-based health centers to address the urgent challenges, including preparation and response to climate-related disasters and emergencies. With many of these health centers also impacted by the recent hurricanes, the team will coordinate avenues of support moving forward.

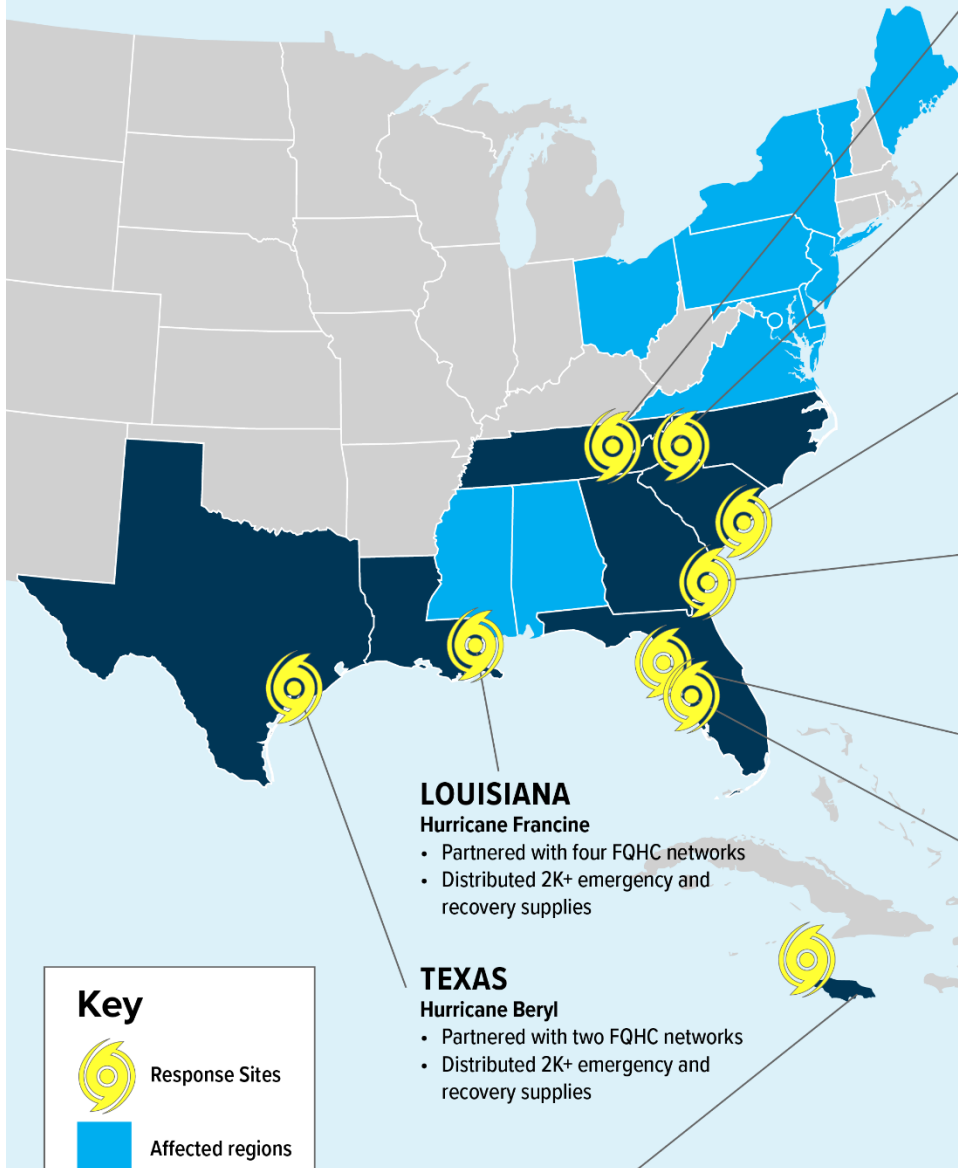
International Medical Corps in the US and Territories

International Medical Corps has been an emergency responder in the United States and Caribbean since 2005, when we partnered with local community clinics overwhelmed by Hurricane Katrina. In the US, International Medical Corps works with national, state and local partners and agencies in the healthcare system to deploy emergency response teams in response to disasters and address the significant challenges that face domestic healthcare services.

| Response to Hurricane Helene | | |
|--|--|---|
| 4 States supported | 18 Counties supported | 47 Volunteers deployed |
| 19 FQHCs supported | 4 State governments supported | 3 Non-profit organizations supported |
| 80 Health facilities supported | 1,256 administrations of over-the-counter medication | 343 Medical health consultations 141 Behavioral health consultations |
| 1,512 Wound-care kits distributed | 10,144 Hygiene kits distributed | 20,441 Hygiene products distributed |
| 1,150 Other relief and recovery supplies distributed | 82 Food items | 2,011 Units of medical supplies |
| 95 Water and sanitation items | 14 Water tanks | 6,000 Gallons of potable water |
| 734,934 indirect beneficiaries | | |

**services since October 13, 2024*

2024 Atlantic Hurricane Season Response*



TENNESSEE

Hurricane Helene

- Partnering with two FQHC networks
- Distributing emergency and recovery supplies and vaccines

NORTH CAROLINA

Hurricane Helene

- Coordinating with Buncombe County HHS, Red Cross, and the NC PCA and 14 FQHC networks
- Distributing 5K+ emergency and recovery supplies including water tanks and water
- Deploying medical and mental health teams

SOUTH CAROLINA

Hurricane Debby

- Partnered with five local FQHC networks and the Red Cross
- Distributed 3K+ emergency and recovery supplies

GEORGIA

Hurricane Debby & Hurricane Helene

- Partnering with the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency
- Distributing emergency and recovery supplies

FLORIDA

Hurricane Helene

- Supporting the FL DOH and partnering with two local FQHCs
- Distributing emergency and recovery supplies

Hurricane Milton

- Coordinating with FDEM and local FQHCs

LOUISIANA

Hurricane Francine

- Partnered with four FQHC networks
- Distributed 2K+ emergency and recovery supplies

TEXAS

Hurricane Beryl

- Partnered with two FQHC networks
- Distributed 2K+ emergency and recovery supplies

JAMAICA

Hurricane Beryl

- Partnered with the National Healthcare Enhancement Foundation
- Supporting three temporary clinics, regional hospital and St. Elizabeth regional health center
- Procured construction materials for continuity of care
- Distributed medical supplies to health facilities

PUERTO RICO

Hurricane Ernesto

- Partnered with PRVOAD and four local FQHCs and healthcare networks
- Distributed 2K+ emergency and recovery supplies

Key



Response Sites



Affected regions



Regions where we responded

*As of October 14, 2024