



A view of Altadena, taken by our medical and mental health team at a local distribution center.

The Los Angeles landscape has changed after the January 2025 wildfires burned more than 40,000 acres of land, destroying more than 16,000 structures and displacing many thousands of families and communities. Although the wildfires have since stopped burning, the long-term impacts of the month-long destructive fires remain. Many parts of the Palisades and Altadena communities have been entirely displaced, with homes and neighborhoods left uninhabitable due to the severe destruction and residual toxic and chemical contaminants.

Though many community-based organizations and local non-profits quickly mobilized to serve affected community members, community needs remain significant. More than a month later, many affected Los Angeles residents are still working to navigate emergency paperwork and appointments with FEMA, insurance, work and housing while continuing to go to work, take children to school and otherwise live their lives.

In Altadena, many community members lost generational homes—many of which were uninsured—in the fires. Additionally, many remaining shelter residents were renters or previous homeowners, with limited resources for temporary housing, complicating long-term placement. To meet the heightened need for shelter following the outbreak of the fires, the Red Cross has managed several shelters across Los Angeles, including the Westwood Recreation Center to house families and individuals displaced by the Palisades Fire, and the Pasadena Convention Center for families and individuals displaced by the Eaton Fire. Since Friday, February 14, the Pasadena Convention Center shelter was downsized to a smaller location, Pamela County Park, in Duarte. Though the Red Cross and FEMA have worked to place many of these families and individuals, many barriers—including financial limitations, limited housing options and loss of community—remain.

FAST FACTS

- The Los Angeles area wildfires have ended, but the long-term impact on many community members is far from over. The fires have damaged more than 16,000 homes, schools, community centers and places of worship across Los Angeles, and have left many remaining structures and areas uninhabitable.
- Though many of the initial support services and resources have dwindled, the physical and emotional needs of residents remain significant.

OUR RESPONSE

- International Medical Corps deployed an emergency response team to the Los Angeles area within 24 hours of the fires' outbreak.
- Between January 17 and February 16, we deployed 58 medical and mental health professionals to deliver direct medical and mental health services to residents within two regional shelters, as well as in community centers and at distribution sites.
- Teams conducted 872 medical consultations and provided 632 residents with primary nursing care, conducted 1,248 MHPSS consultations and provided 3,145 people with mental health outreach services.
- The mental health team developed and distributed tailored [mental health resources](#) to families and individuals affected by the fires, with referrals to free helplines, phone applications and exercises to process the change and loss.
- We have distributed:
 - more than 40,000 response, recovery and medical items, including air purifiers, nebulizer compressors, medicine bottles, adult diapers and children's toys;
 - 5,856 hygiene kits, 4,903 wound-care kits and 35,600 face masks; and
 - communication equipment for internet service.
- International Medical Corps continues to coordinate closely with local, state and regional agencies, including the Los Angeles Mayor's Office, California Department of Public Health, California Emergency Medical Services Authority, California Primary Care Association, California Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County, the Red Cross, and local organizations, shelters and health centers serving low-income and other vulnerable groups to support ongoing recovery efforts.

The road to recovery for many of these affected families and community members is long, as immediate and sustainable housing situations, financial solutions, work and community options have been derailed. Though the fires remain a distant memory for some, for affected community members the crisis remains starkly real.

International Medical Corps' Response

International Medical Corps deployed an Emergency Response Team within 24 hours of the fires' outbreak. We immediately began working closely with national, state, county and local responders—including the American Red Cross, the California Department of Public Health, the California Primary Care Association and the Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County—to meet the needs of many vulnerable community members, and are continuing to partner with them on long-term recovery.

Over the course of our response, International Medical Corps deployed 58 medical and mental health professionals, including 34 nurses and 15 mental health professionals—many of whom are California and Los Angeles locals—to provide critical medical and mental health care in shelters, and at community distribution centers and re-entry points.

Shelter Services

From January 20 to February 16, International Medical Corps teams provided medical care within the Red Cross-managed Pasadena Convention Center and the Westwood Recreation Center shelters, providing around-the-clock care for much of the response. When the Hughes fire broke out January 22, International Medical Corps quickly pivoted to provide medical care in the emergency shelter established near Castaic Lake. Over the course of our response, our teams of doctors, nurse practitioners and nurses conducted 872 consultations and assessments, and provided 632 residents with primary nursing care with medication administration.

From January 17 to February 16, our mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) team provided critical community-based services to affected residents at both the Pasadena and Westwood centers, as well as at distribution sites and community hubs in Santa Monica, Palisades and Altadena. Our teams—which provided mental health services in both English and Spanish—have conducted 1,248 consultations and provided more than 3,145 people through community-based outreach services. At these sites, our licensed mental health clinicians approached vehicles, families and individuals to conduct psychological first aid and coach people through coping mechanisms as those individuals waited their turn to return to their damaged homes and communities. For many people, this was the first time since the fires that they had been able to process the changes in this way.

At both shelters, International Medical Corps' teams of mental health and medical providers and nurses provided a stable, comforting and compassionate presence to many of the residents who experienced enormous loss and change. The teams worked in very close partnership with other organizations within the shelter, including the Red Cross and the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health.

Community-Based Outreach

In addition to providing services in shelters, International Medical Corps has been coordinating closely with local communities and organizations, including the NAACP and others, offering other health and outreach services. Our teams also regularly deployed a medical mobile unit to various distribution points and community hubs within both Santa Monica and Altadena, providing medical and mental health care, and working to meet community members where they are.

International Medical Corps has also distributed urgently needed relief and response supplies to 16 different sites and partners, including shelters, federally qualified health centers (which provide medical services to low-income and other vulnerable populations), community-based organizations, local nonprofits and government entities. Over the course of our response, we have delivered more than 44,905 hygiene items, 8,762 medical supplies, 244 air-quality items, 35,600 KN95 or N95 face masks and 4,903 first-aid and wound-care kits, among other supplies. We have also provided critical communications equipment and internet connectivity to shelters to support residents, staff and first responders as they contact FEMA, work, landlords and more. We are continuing to distribute additional supplies in bulk to health centers and local nonprofit organizations to support ongoing recovery efforts.



An International Medical Corps volunteer nurse conducts a medical consultation with a resident at the Pasadena Convention Center shelter.

Community Clinic Support

As the response shifts to recovery, International Medical Corps is directly supporting health centers and local organizations that provide accessible healthcare and health-related services to the most vulnerable communities affected by the fires. This includes support to frontline healthcare staff, so they are able to return to work—for example, we have already provided housing allowances to a local health center network to support 15 frontline healthcare workers who lost their homes in the fire. We are working to make similar resources available to additional partners, as well as working to provide funds to offset patient copays and prescriptions refills—providing urgently needed financial resources to families most affected, and ensuring continuity of care for affected community members.

International Medical Corps is committed to staying and serving affected Los Angeles residents to support long-term recovery. We continue to expand our response and recovery efforts as requested.

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 to deploy emergency response teams in response to disasters and address the significant challenges that face domestic healthcare services.

In the last seven years, we have engaged and supported a partner network of more than 275 hospitals, clinics, health and health-related facilities, and non-profit organizations across 18 states and territories in the United States, delivering health resources, services and training to more than 6 million patients and providers. We have collaborated since 2020 with the LA County Department of Public Health Services, LA Homeless Services Authority and local partner organizations.

In 2020 and 2021, International Medical Corps implemented a robust response to the COVID-19 outbreak nationwide. In the greater Los Angeles area, we deployed emergency medical field units and equipment to seven LA-area safety-net hospitals, delivered training and personal protective equipment to 51 LA-area long-term eldercare facilities and 176 LA-area health workers, managed a vaccination site at Kedren Community Health Center in south LA that delivered more than 140,000 vaccinations, and distributed 305 pieces of medical equipment and more than 2 million pieces of personal protective equipment to LA-area hospitals, health facilities and emergency medical services. In 2021, International Medical Corps conducted a multi-component project in California’s Central Valley to build the capacity of vulnerable populations in wildfire-impacted communities to better withstand and recover from wildfires.



International Medical Corps medical and mental health teams provide consultations to affected community members at the NAACP resource fair in Pasadena on February 7.

Response to LA Wildfires

16 sites supported	58 medical and MHPSS professionals deployed
5,856 hygiene kits distributed	1,280 first-aid kits distributed
39,049 hygiene products distributed	35,600 masks distributed
8,762 medical supplies distributed	3,623 wound-care kits distributed
1,194 other relief & recovery supplies distributed	244 air purifiers and air-quality items distributed
1,248 MHPSS consultations	3,145 participants in MHPSS outreach
872 medical consultations	632 patients given primary nursing care
47,572 direct beneficiaries	140,658 indirect beneficiaries