



Members of the field team conduct assessments in Guanica, Puerto Rico.

SITUATION UPDATE

Response operations continue to focus on food, water and shelter support, as ongoing damage assessments and needs identification shape program activities.

One death has so far been reported. Though this number has not increased since initial reports, secondary physical injuries and mental trauma among survivors is only just beginning to emerge, as communities begin to dig out from the rubble and wrestle with the thought of rebuilding homes, schools and other community resources.

Because the island's water system has been affected by extensive power outages, the safety and accessibility of potable water and wastewater systems remain a critical element in the assessment of community needs.

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS RESPONSE

On Thursday, January 9, International Medical Corps' Puerto Rico team deployed to affected areas in the south, along with a team of volunteers trained in psychological first aid (PFA). Supplies are being prepositioned, and the team was able to provide PFA interventions and distribute food and water at shelters in three communities: Las Arenas, La Esperanza and Sabana Grande. At Sabana Grande shelter, we also provided individual crisis intervention and PFA interventions to people in need.

The International Medical Corps team also was able to reach Barrianda Esperanza in Guanica, where residents are living in tents and mats outside near the Pavia Clinic. These communities are still in need of medical and hygiene items; our team is continuing to map available services and connect those affected with important resources.

With support from International Medical Corps' private and institutional donors, the team in Puerto Rico will be providing urgently needed hygiene kits, as well as tents, blankets and other critical supplies to those affected by the

FAST FACTS

- 5,244 people have lost their homes
- 1,792 people are currently living in official shelters; another 3,500 are living in non-traditional shelters, such as cars and tents, due to aftershock concerns
- 34 shelters have been established in schools, clinics, stadiums and municipal buildings
- Almost 270,000 households continue to be without water service
- 25 healthcare facilities continue to operate on backup generators
- 50% of power company customers (residential and industrial) remain without power
- 500 cell towers—20% of the country's total—remain down
- Highways and roadway closures are widespread, due to rock- and landslides

recent devastation. International Medical Corps also is working to provide portable solar generators to support partners providing critical health services.

International Medical Corps has made contact with community leaders, as well as staff at non-profit organizations and government departments, and is actively collaborating with these players to bring help to survivors.

Our medical surge mission-ready packages stand ready to provide additional support if requested.

International Medical Corps will look at expanding our response as necessary as more information becomes available. Our field staff and Emergency Response Unit remain in close communication with Puerto Rico's Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) and Department of Health as they continue to assess needs.



Members of the field team visit a non-traditional shelter in Guanica, Puerto Rico.