

Venezuela



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Venezuela has experienced the second-largest international displacement worldwide. More than 7 million Venezuelans have left their country in search of safety, work, food, healthcare and other basic needs. Inside the country, more than 5 million people struggle with food insecurity and limited access to

medical care. Hyperinflation and a leadership struggle have created a difficult humanitarian environment that has left many working Venezuelans struggling in poverty.

Across the country, Venezuelans face difficulty accessing food and drinking water. Women have insufficient access to gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response services. In remote areas, people often have no access at all to primary healthcare services.

International Medical Corps has worked in Venezuela since 2019. Our teams deliver health, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), food security and livelihoods, gender-based violence (GBV) response and support, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programs.

To date, we have reached more than 3.5 million people in 10 states, supported more than 120 health centers, and distributed medications, medical supplies and equipment valued at nearly \$2 million. Additionally, International Medical Corps has offered MHPSS to GBV survivors and underserved Venezuelans affected by the country's complex humanitarian crisis. In Anzoátegui state, we are rehabilitating non-functional boreholes and installing clean-water distribution points, to increase access to clean and safe water. As an implementing partner of the World Food Programme in Delta Amacuro state, International Medical Corps is distributing food baskets to indigenous communities in isolated areas, some accessible only by boat.



HEALTH

Venezuela's protracted humanitarian crisis has rendered the public health system network inoperative. Infrastructure is damaged, referral systems are fractured and community knowledge of how to prevent disease is lacking. Health facilities have inadequate medicines, supplies, equipment and skilled professionals. Venezuelans have insufficient access to primary healthcare and specialized medical assistance, and more than 8 million are sick.

In Bolívar state, in the municipalities of Cedeño and Sucre, International Medical Corps delivers primary healthcare to remote indigenous communities through fixed and mobile medical units. Our teams provide medical consultations, support immunization programs, and conduct capacity-building activities for health staff and awareness sessions for community members. We also improve access to sexual and reproductive health services, as well as newborn and children's health services, in indigenous communities by deploying OB/GYNs and pediatricians, providing essential medical supplies to health facilities and raising awareness of the importance of pre- and post-natal care.



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

Unfortunately, GBV has become the norm amid Venezuela's humanitarian crisis. Across the country, community-based GBV networks have been disrupted, and referral pathways to GBV services are lacking. GBV survivors are frequently left with traditional practices that are often harmful, and with low-availability temporary shelters as their only options. In the first quarter of 2023 alone, human rights observers recorded 63 femicides.

In Bolívar state, in the municipalities of Cedeño and Sucre, International Medical Corps is increasing the availability of GBV services, including MHPSS, case management services for survivors, and training and awareness sessions for medical and non-medical staff in indigenous communities. We also have established two women and girls safe spaces, where our staff and volunteers provide these services alongside other educational and supportive services to women and girls.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

International Medical Corps provides MHPSS services in Bolívar state for adults experiencing emotional stress and psychosocial distress. We also provide community members with key messages through awareness-raising activities as we build capacities on the World Health Organization's Self-Help Plus (SH+) program, psychological first aid (PFA) and seminars on basic mental health concepts for adults and frontline workers.





FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

Most Venezuelans face difficulties accessing food. Millions go days without a meal. Nearly 11 million people are undernourished or chronically hungry. School kitchens sit idle. Entire communities lack the means to transport food items. Families with low incomes are unable to meet their nutritional needs and have no support to afford regular meals.

As the only implementing partner of the World Food Programme in Delta Amacuro state, International Medical Corps provides food assistance to indigenous communities in all four municipalities, distributing food baskets to approximately 13,000 children under five years old who are enrolled in 61 rural and secluded schools along the Orinoco River.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Scarce access has created a dire need for clean water and basic sanitation services. Many water systems are non-functional, with more than 4 million people in acute need of drinking water. Nationwide, there is a lack of basic WASH services, sanitary control, and infection prevention and control (IPC) protocols.

International Medical Corps is improving access to WASH services in the community of Los Potocos, Barcelona, Anzoátegui state, providing safe and high-quality water while raising awareness of WASH issues with community members.



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A pre-eminent first responder since 1984, International Medical Corps delivers emergency medical and related services to those affected by conflict, disaster, and disease, no matter where they are, no matter what the conditions. We also train people in their communities, providing them with the skills they need to recover, chart their own path to self-reliance, and become effective first responders themselves.

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