

SITUATION UPDATE



An International Medical Corps health outreach volunteer provides assistance to children in a designated shelter in Tyre, South Lebanon.

Tensions have prevailed in the south of Lebanon, after Hezbollah fired rockets and guided missiles at an Israeli military post in Shebaa Farms on October 8. Since then, armed confrontations along the border have been taking place daily.

As of February 23, 941 casualties and 199 fatalities had been reported, and the fighting has displaced tens of thousands of residents on both sides of the border. According to the International Organization for Migration Displacement Tracking Matrix, as of February 29, 91,288 people had been forced to flee their homes since hostilities began.

International Medical Corps Response

To maintain continuity of care in all its program locations and to support displaced populations, International Medical Corps immediately mobilized teams to address the urgent needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) through mobile medical units (MMUs) and other outreach activities. International Medical Corps also has been at the forefront of coordinating efforts with key stakeholders, spanning both national and field levels, to ensure effective emergency preparedness and response.

On a national scale, we have played a proactive role in collaborating with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and other key stakeholders. The MoPH has activated its public health emergency operation center (PHEOC) and conducted multiple meetings to develop a well-coordinated and effective preparedness strategy. International Medical Corps' involvement has been crucial in furthering these efforts.

Working closely with the National Mental Health Program (NMHP) and the Young Men's Christian Association, we continue to play a key role in replenishing the central stock of psychotropic medications and providing training on

FAST FACTS

- International Medical Corps has provided services in Lebanon since 2006.
- We partner with more than 50 primary healthcare centers (PHCCs) throughout the country, supporting health services for vulnerable populations, including Syrian refugees, Lebanese and migrant workers in Akkar, Bekaa, Beirut, Mount Lebanon and other areas throughout the North and South.

OUR RESPONSE

- Since October 7, International Medical Corps has been supporting internally displaced persons (IDPs) in South Lebanon.
- To date, our mobile medical units (MMUs) have conducted 65 visits in the South, providing:
 - 1,664 medical consultations;
 - medications to 1,270 patient prescriptions; and
 - referrals for 251 patients to PHCCs that we support.
- At least 1,138 IDPs have benefited from our health promotion and awareness activities.
- More than 238 IDPs attended sessions on psychological first aid (PFA), while 314 attended mental health awareness sessions and 272 people received training on PFA.
- We donated medications and medical equipment to the PHCCs we support, as well as to the Nabatiah, Tebnin and Tyre governmental hospitals.
- At least 230 IDPs attended sessions related to awareness of gender-based violence (GBV). We provided 43 GBV-related and 40 non-GBV consultations, and provided emergency cash assistance to two families affected by GBV.

psychological first aid (PFA). We also support other partners in the country, addressing the crucial aspect of staff-care needs.

In February, we conducted 13 MMU visits to IDP shelters in Lebanese German University, Tyre National School and Tyre Technical School in Tyre, and Ahraj Hasbaia, Kawkabaa Club, Nour Association, Saidnaya Monastery and Salam Association Kawkaba in Hasbaia. We provided 281 medical consultations through these MMUs, and 167 medication prescriptions. The MMUs and community health workers also provided 46 referrals to PHCCs for patients with more complicated needs.

Our community health workers provided awareness-raising sessions on various health topics to 238 IDPs. In coordination with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, we distributed 50 house kits and 50 child kits to IDPs hosted by the community in Hanaway area, as well as 12 kits for non-communicable diseases to IDPs hosted by the community in the Toura area. PHCCs supported by International Medical Corp provided medical consultations for 329 IDPs free of charge, and conducted two home visits to IDPs with disabilities.

Our mental health case managers provided 70 PFA consultations to IDPs in Al Hosh Vocational Institute and At Tyre Vocational Schools and German University Bourj Chemali. During the sessions—which covered general mental health, psychosocial stressors and anxiety—participants expressed challenges related to tension, conflict, exhaustion and concerns about their homes, and learned about coping strategies. The team did not hold mental health awareness-raising sessions this month, due to bad weather. As part of the ongoing efforts to enhance the skills and preparedness of stakeholders, especially frontline workers during emergencies, International Medical Corps worked with NMHP to conduct two PFA training sessions in February for 33 first responders, including social workers, community mobilizers and nurses, as well as team leaders and capacity building officers from different local and international NGOs, PHCCs and insurance companies. Following discussions with NMHP and updated capacity-building assessments, International Medical Corps will support two PFA trainings per month that will be conducted remotely.

In February, we deployed two GBV consultations under the case management process in response to emergencies in the southern region.