

SITUATION UPDATE



An International Medical Corps community health worker provides assistance to children in a designated shelter at Lebanese German University, South Lebanon.

On October 7, an armed conflict between Hamas-led militant groups and Israeli military forces began. 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.

In recent weeks, the escalation of airstrikes and military operations has led to the highest number of civilian casualties since the conflict began. According to the International Organization for Migration Displacement Tracking Matrix, as of April 4, 93,393 people had been forced to flee their homes since hostilities began.

International Medical Corps Response

To maintain continuity of care in all of 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 has also 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

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 76 visits in the South, providing:
 - 1,884 medical consultations;
 - medications to 1,350 patient prescriptions; and
 - referrals for 278 patients to PHCCs that we support.
- At least 1,278 IDPs have benefited from our health promotion and awareness activities.
- More than 289 IDPs attended sessions on psychological first aid (PFA), 339 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 254 IDPs attended sessions related to awareness of gender-based violence (GBV). We provided 45 GBV-related and 47 non-GBV consultations and provided emergency cash assistance to two families affected by GBV.

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

In March, we conducted 11 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 220 medical consultations and 81 medication prescriptions through these MMUs. The MMUs and community health workers (CHWs) also provided 27 referrals to PHCCs for patients with more complicated needs.

Our CHWs provided awareness-raising sessions on various health topics to 140 IDPs. PHCCs supported by International Medical Corps provided medical consultations for 254 IDPs free of charge. Our mental-health case managers provided 71 PFA consultations to IDPs in Al Hosh Vocational Institute and at Tyre Vocational Schools and German University Bourj Chemali. The individual sessions focused on enhancing coping mechanisms through grounding and breathing techniques, strengthening emotional support, reducing distress and parental guidance.

We also provided mental health awareness-raising sessions covering topics around depression and general psychosocial stressors to 25 participants. Our mental-health case management teams continued to coordinate closely with other organizations supporting health services at the shelters to conduct mental health screenings and refer cases in need of further mental health and psychosocial support, thereby increasing outreach to displaced population groups.

In March, our efforts in Tyr and Saida yielded significant progress in providing essential services and support to vulnerable populations. In Tyr, we conducted gender-based violence (GBV) awareness sessions for 24 participants at Lebanon German University, Hasan Farran Collective Shelters and Srifa PHCC. Additionally, our team facilitated two GBV consultations, seven non-GBV consultations, and established vital links to different services provided by other stakeholders. Meanwhile, in Saida, our distribution of menstrual hygiene management kits and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse sessions in the old city included three IPDs, underscoring our commitment to addressing the diverse needs of displaced populations and ensuring their dignity and well-being.