

# Libya



**International Medical Corps was the first international humanitarian organization to arrive in Libya following the outbreak of the conflict in early 2011.**

Since then, we have focused on providing medical relief and gained significant in-country expertise and widespread programmatic reach by helping populations affected by conflict. Today, International Medical Corps supports the most vulnerable populations in Libya while strengthening the country's health system.

Shortly after Libya's civil war began in 2011, International Medical Corps deployed teams to provide countrywide emergency medical services, train health workers and deliver vital medicines and supplies. Starting in the country's east, we built makeshift health facilities to provide critical care to conflict-affected populations, and moved with the front lines westward until the fighting dissipated.

As the situation progressed, we transitioned from emergency activities to programs that fostered recovery and self-reliance, targeting vulnerable populations deprived of access to basic healthcare—including internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the growing number of migrants transiting through the country on their way to Europe. International Medical Corps supported the physical rehabilitation of health clinics, and we continue to provide medical aid to those in urgent need of care while providing a broader range of services that benefit the wider Libyan and non-Libyan populations.

Beginning in 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we strengthened our partnership with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the National Center for Disease Control by donating personal protective equipment (PPE) and providing in-person and remote training on COVID-19 prevention and response.

In 2023, security and stability across the country continued to improve. However, Libya is still experiencing political and administrative division. Despite this, International Medical Corps provides healthcare and protection in remote areas to ensure that all vulnerable populations have equal access to high-quality health services. At the same time, we prioritize efforts to strengthen the Libyan healthcare system by building the capacity of national staff and institutions.

On September 10, 2023, Storm Daniel struck northeast Libya, dumping months' worth of rain in a matter of hours and causing the collapse of two dams upstream from the coastal city of Derna. International Medical Corps quickly began providing health services in Derna after the flooding. We deployed mobile teams to address health, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response needs, and provide water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services. We also provided primary and emergency healthcare in the affected areas and helped build the capacity of the national healthcare providers through training programs.



## WHERE WE WORK

- A ALBAYADA**
- B ALBAYDA**
- C BENGHAZI**
- D BRAK ASH SHATI**
- E DERNA**
- F MISRATA**
- G NALUT**
- H SABHA**
- I SOUSA**
- J TAWERGHHA**
- K TOBRUK**
- L TOKRA**
- M TRIPOLI**



**International Medical Corps has worked uninterrupted in Libya since the outbreak of the conflict in 2011 and is one of the few organizations that are based in the country and have access to all regions.**

**International Medical Corps was one of the first international humanitarian agencies to provide health services in Derna after the floods.**



## MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

International Medical Corps provides MHPSS services through trained doctors who navigate the identification, management and referral of priority mental health conditions in line with World Health Organization guidelines. We also build the capacity of healthcare providers at the primary healthcare level on several mental health topics, to ensure they can provide MHPSS services as part of primary healthcare. Furthermore, to strengthen community-based MHPSS efforts, we train community focal people from different municipalities to facilitate training and awareness sessions that advocate for mental health at the community level.

International Medical Corps partnered with Libyan organizations to offer mental health care after the floods, including deploying remote mental health counselors via a national helpline and mental health counselors as part of our emergency medical teams (EMTs), to help people cope with the stress of the disaster and reduce the stigma around mental health in the affected areas.

## HEALTHCARE SUPPORT

International Medical Corps operates mobile medical units (MMUs) that provide vital healthcare services to Libyans and non-Libyans in Misrata, Sabha, Tawergha and Tripoli. The MMUs are supported by community health workers who play a critical role in raising awareness among migrant and refugee communities about common health problems, as well as in promoting psychosocial well-being and disease prevention. The MMU teams also organize regular training and on-the-job tutorial sessions for healthcare providers, helping to ensure the availability and continuity of essential services, particularly in underserved and hard-to-reach areas.



International Medical Corps is committed to strengthening the national healthcare system through our long-term partnership with the MoH. This partnership involves training healthcare workers, providing medications and medical equipment, and rehabilitating healthcare facilities to ensure the sustainability of our efforts. By working collaboratively with the MoH, we improve healthcare access and quality for all Libyans, with a particular focus on vulnerable populations.

In response to Storm Daniel, International Medical Corps provided a range of primary and emergency health services, including the deployment of 12 EMTs to support 31 healthcare centers in eight municipalities, bringing lifesaving health services to flood-affected communities that were experiencing critical shortages of qualified health staff, essential medical supplies and damaged infrastructure. Our support also included rehabilitating several health facilities in the affected areas.



## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND PROTECTION

International Medical Corps' GBV teams operate in Benghazi, Derna, Misrata and Tawergha. Our programs focus on GBV response and prevention services and support vulnerable women and girls by providing various services, including awareness sessions, case management, group psychosocial support activities, and recreational and skill-building activities.

We are also a member of the GBV coordination mechanism, which enhances our ability to coordinate and collaborate with other organizations and ensure effective GBV prevention and response efforts. In addition, we prioritize collaborating with local authorities and service providers to enhance service provision and access for beneficiaries.

In the aftermath of the floods, displacement and limited resources left women and girls at increased risk for GBV. International Medical Corps' GBV teams continue to provide

support to women and girls affected by the floods, including awareness-raising activities, individual or group psychosocial support and dignity kits.

## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE, AND NON-FOOD ITEMS

In the aftermath of the floods, damage to WASH infrastructure put the entire flood-affected area at risk for waterborne diseases. International Medical Corps provided sanitation supplies and millions of liters of clean water. Through our water trucking program, we delivered clean water and filled household water tanks to meet daily needs. Our WASH team also distributed bottled water, hygiene kits and water purification tablets to flood-affected communities, conducted awareness-raising sessions on proper hygiene practices, repaired health facilities and trained volunteers to keep the systems running safely.



[www.InternationalMedicalCorps.org](http://www.InternationalMedicalCorps.org)

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.

May 2024

**COUNTRY CONTACT:** Talal Burnaz, Country Director  
tburnaz@InternationalMedicalCorps.org

**HEADQUARTERS CONTACT:** Megan Greenhalgh,  
Director of International Programs  
mgreenhalgh@InternationalMedicalCorps.org.uk

International Medical Corps is headquartered in Los Angeles, CA, and has offices in Washington, DC; London, UK; and Split, Croatia.  
For contact information, visit [InternationalMedicalCorps.org/contact](http://InternationalMedicalCorps.org/contact).