

Gaza & West Bank



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The recent conflict in Gaza has left almost the entire population of 2.2 million people requiring humanitarian assistance. Violence and airstrikes throughout the northern, middle and the southern regions have uprooted more than three-quarters of the population, destroying essential infrastructure for basic services, including healthcare, education, clean water, sanitation and housing. Meanwhile, extensive food shortages have created risk of famine for the vulnerable population.

International Medical Corps has provided humanitarian assistance in Gaza since 2008. Before the escalation of conflict on October 7, 2023, our work focused on implementing

emergency preparedness and coordination projects, and on providing primary and secondary healthcare, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), child protection (CP) and gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response services.

Following the conflict's escalation, we adapted our services to meet the dire humanitarian needs, including establishing in early January 2024 a large field hospital in the south of Gaza to provide civilians with surgical and trauma services, outpatient services, MHPSS, GBV, CP, nutrition, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services.

In May 2024, we established a second field hospital that provides comprehensive, integrated and multi-sectoral services to civilians in the middle part of Gaza, including primary, maternal, child and reproductive healthcare, nutrition, MHPSS, GBV, CP and WASH services.



PRIMARY HEALTHCARE

We provide extensive primary healthcare services at our field hospitals, and with local partners at static and mobile health units throughout Gaza, including outpatient consultations for adults and children; prevention, early detection and treatment of non-communicable diseases; routine immunizations; and sexual and reproductive health education and services. At the hospitals, we provide a range of primary healthcare services through different departments, including trauma and emergency services.

In the West Bank, we support a local partner providing primary healthcare services in Taybeh and neighboring communities in Ramallah governorate through clinic-based and community-based outreach activities, with integrated MHPSS services.

SECONDARY HEALTHCARE

Though we previously supported local partners in their delivery of secondary healthcare services, since establishing our field hospitals we have also provided secondary healthcare services on-site. The hospital in the south has a Level 1 intensive-care unit, X-ray, laboratory, ultrasound, pharmacy and blood transfusion facilities. We carry out trauma, orthopedic and obstetric surgeries in our operating theaters, and provide a full range of maternal-care services, including C-sections, and antenatal and postnatal care.

Working with local partners, we also train health staff in patient safety and infection prevention and control practices. We provide critical medical supplies and equipment to local partners and free pharmaceuticals to people who would otherwise be unable to afford them.

PHYSIOTHERAPY AND WOUND CARE

We provide wound care at the field hospital in the south, where we also offer physiotherapy services for early recovery and mobility for post-surgery patients. We support a partner providing wound care in the region and another partner that has a facility and that provides home-based physiotherapy and wound care/dressing for people with severe wounds or injuries, or such conditions as diabetes-related wounds or amputations.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Our MHPSS programming promotes well-being, protects against additional distress or potential psychiatric emergencies, and includes core training and supervision to ensure high-quality implementation. Since the escalation of the conflict, we have increased our services, providing daily emotional and psychological first aid (PFA) to alleviate distress and promote resilience among those affected by the conflict.

Our MHPSS services are integrated with the other health services we provide. Our teams offer PFA, community outreach and psychoeducation, individual case management, structured group activities and capacity-building for local professionals and community leaders, both in Gaza and the West Bank.

CHILD PROTECTION

Already a provider of CP services in Gaza, we have expanded our CP programming since the deployment of our first field hospital. The child-friendly safe space tent in that hospital enables children to socialize and access mental health resources. Offering PFA, non-structured activities and other CP interventions, our team provides immediate support and comfort to children experiencing distress. We also provide case management and psychological counseling sessions to children, with tailored support to address their specific needs.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Recognizing the needs of vulnerable people, particularly women and girls in conflict-affected settings, International Medical Corps' GBV team conducts awareness sessions, PFA sessions, individual GBV sessions and targeted interventions to address GBV effectively. Our sessions educate the community on recognizing and preventing GBV, as well as its

consequences, helping people to identify and report instances of violence. Through specialized case management services, the team ensures that GBV survivors have access to medical care and psychosocial support.

We integrate MHPSS, GBV and CP services with services provided by different medical departments to ensure that vulnerable patients receive holistic assistance. Our protection teams coordinate closely to ensure that cases are referred externally and internally to the various available services and organizations operating in Gaza. We provide specialized and non-specialized protection training to our own and to other organizations' staff.





NUTRITION

We prioritize addressing the nutritional needs of vulnerable people and IDPs, particularly children under 5, pregnant and lactating women (PLWs), and people at risk of acute malnutrition at our facilities and in surrounding communities. We screen children under 5 and PLWs for malnutrition, treating moderate acute and severe acute malnutrition cases, and providing essential nutritional support. We also offer infant and young-child feeding counseling services, and provide ready-to-eat meals to patients at our hospitals.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

International Medical Corps' WASH team focuses on a number of key activities inside the field hospitals. We installed water supply infrastructure, including a solar-powered

desalination plant and submersible water pump, as well as filling points at different locations. We also added sanitation infrastructure, such as collection bladders, toilets, showers and handwashing stations. We conduct hygiene promotion activities on different topics, such as handwashing, safe storage of solid waste, preventing waterborne diseases and more.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

International Medical Corps builds communities' resilience, response to and preparedness for natural disasters through disaster risk-reduction programming. Our services focus on prevention and protection, including reducing the number of people affected by disasters, reducing the damage to critical infrastructure and preventing the disruption of basic services at the community level.



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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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