

SITUATION UPDATE



A doctor treats a newborn in the neonatal intensive-care unit at our field hospital in Deir al-Balah, Gaza.

The conflict in the Middle East, which began nearly one year ago, has resulted in thousands of civilian casualties, mass displacement and widespread destruction of infrastructure. In Gaza, the already under-resourced health system has been depleted of medicines, medical supplies and fuel, and the few remaining functional hospitals have been overwhelmed with patients seeking care. As the rainy season approaches, the population remains vulnerable to further displacement, health concerns and restricted access to essential services.¹ While the conditions in Gaza continue to grow more dire, the impact of the conflict in the surrounding region is escalating.

Conflict in Lebanon has killed civilians, destroyed homes, directly affected or displaced more than 1 million people² and heightened fears of a broader regional war. Some 100,000 people have crossed from Lebanon into Syria—60% of whom are Syrians, with the rest being Lebanese nationals.³ The hostilities have extended to Yemen, where airstrikes targeted the strategic port of Hodeidah and a power plant in the city, killing at least four people and injuring more than 30.⁴

International Medical Corps Response

In 2023, International Medical Corps provided direct services to more than 5 million people across the Middle East. In response to the war in Gaza, International Medical Corps has rapidly scaled up operations across Gaza and the West Bank, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen, providing a holistic, integrated and coordinated regional response.

FAST FACTS

- The conflict in Gaza has profoundly affected the stability, security and humanitarian context across the region.
- Over the last year in Lebanon, more than 1 million people have been directly affected or displaced by the conflict there.
- More than 100,000 people—60% of whom are under the age of 18—have crossed from Lebanon into Syria, which already is grappling with the world's second-largest internal displacement situation.
- Yemen remains one of the world's largest humanitarian crises, with more than 4.5 million IDPs and nearly 10 million children in need of humanitarian assistance.

OUR FOOTPRINT

- We have worked in Lebanon since 2006, in Gaza and Syria since 2008 and in Yemen since 2012, addressing some of the region's most critical challenges.
- Our teams have rapidly expanded services across the region to meet increasing needs, leveraging our experience providing health, protection, nutrition, MHPSS, WASH, risk-reduction and capacity-building programs.

OUR RESPONSE

- International Medical Corps has two field hospitals in Gaza that have served nearly 200,000 people since January.
- Over the past year in Lebanon, we have provided more than 700,000 medical consultations, more than 35,000 MHPSS consultations and 2,750 dignity kits.
- In the first six months of 2024 in Syria, we provided 187,088 health consultations, MHPSS services to more than 11,000 people and nutritional support to more than 13,000 people.
- In the first six months of 2024 in Yemen, we reached more than 350,000 people, providing 2,842 vaccinations, WASH services for more than 80,000 people and nutrition for more than 71,000 people.

¹ <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/humanitarian-situation-update-224-gaza-strip>

² <https://www.cnn.com/world/live-news/israel-lebanon-war-hezbollah-09-30-24-intl-hnk/index.html>

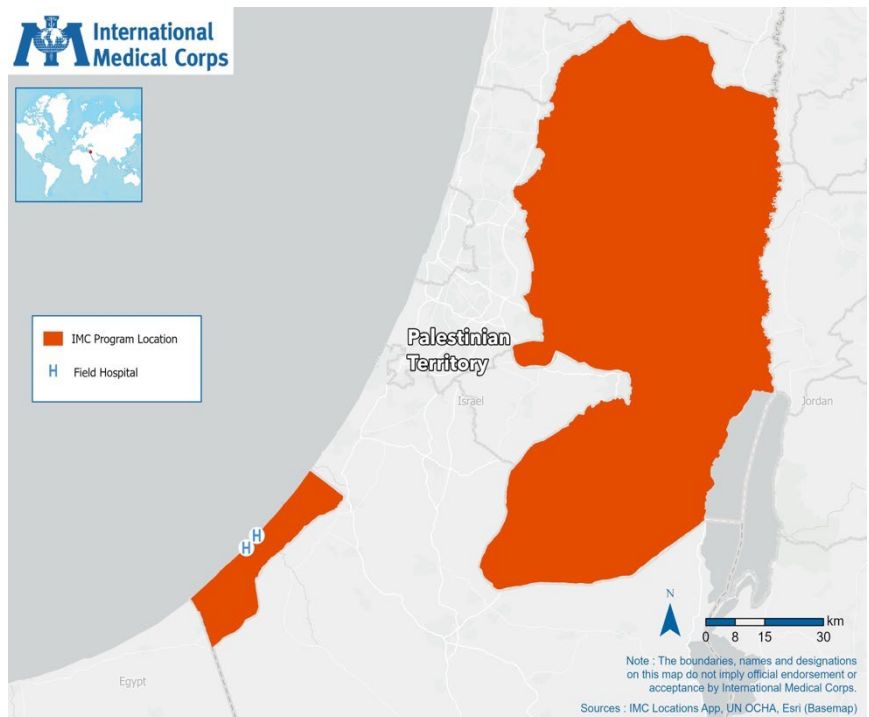
³ <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/unhcr-syria-flash-update-4-response-displacement-lebanon-syria-reporting-period-24-29-september-2024-enar>

⁴ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/video/2024/sep/30/israel-strikes-port-of-hodeidah-in-yemen-causing-large-explosion-video>

Gaza and the West Bank

The conflict in Gaza has affected its entire population, nearly all of whom now live in poverty. An estimated 1.9 million people, or nine in 10 Gazans, have been displaced at least once.⁵ Those who are displaced continue to live in dire conditions—internally displaced persons (IDPs) have limited access to food, water and basic necessities, live in crowded and damaged tents and structures, and face heightened risks of communicable diseases. The flooding that comes with the winter season will further limit access to adequate health services and sanitation.⁶

In response to the vast humanitarian needs, International Medical Corps on January 6 [deployed a field hospital near Rafah](#) to provide comprehensive lifesaving services to the civilian population. Our main field hospital, [now located in Deir al Balah](#) in central Gaza, [provides lifesaving surgical care for trauma](#), physical rehabilitation, comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care, nutrition, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), child protection, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and support, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services and more. Given the vast need for emergency and outpatient services, we opened an additional field hospital on July 15 in Al Zawaida.



Since deploying, we have treated 196,366 people, performed 6,373 surgeries (including 2,295 major and moderate surgeries, and 4,078 minor procedures) and facilitated 2,536 births, including 537 caesarean sections. Our teams have dispensed approximately 1,000 prescriptions daily, screened 70,767 people for malnutrition and provided micronutrients to 29,505. Additionally, we have supported 11,347 people with MHPSS services and reached 25,953 with GBV support. To improve WASH conditions in Gaza, we have supplied safe drinking water to 176,676 people and improved sanitation access for 95,464. In collaboration with the World Health Organization, International Medical Corps vaccinated 8,725 children against polio at the Al-Zawaida hospital and through partner-operated mobile medical units.

In the West Bank, International Medical Corps is providing MHPSS and protection services primarily for children and vulnerable populations through our partnerships with local organizations. We so far have trained about 200 people in MHPSS. Working with local partners, we also have conducted 2,101 health consultations, provided GBV awareness-raising sessions for 120 women and delivered psychosocial support to 3,429 people.

Lebanon

The escalating conflict in Lebanon has led to widespread displacement, with Lebanese citizens fleeing their homes as airstrikes target southern Lebanon, the Bekaa Valley and southern Beirut. Over the past year, International Medical Corps has continued to support primary healthcare centers (PHCCs) throughout the country, enabling them to provide 708,695 medical consultations, conduct 35,022 MHPSS consultations, deliver 2,750 dignity kits and facilitate GBV awareness-raising sessions for 7,755 people.

Despite the recent escalation of the conflict, International Medical Corps continues to deliver essential services across 46 of the 53 PHCCs we had been supporting. These PHCCs are equipped to perform essential medical procedures, alleviating the burden on hospitals and enabling them to focus on more critical cases. Since September 22, we have deployed 10 primary satellite units (PSUs) that have so far reached 21 shelters. Each PSU comprises a medical team that provides consultations, medical procedures, medications and referrals for IDPs. Through ongoing collaboration with the PHCCs and the activation of PSUs, our teams have ensured continuity of comprehensive healthcare services throughout the country.

⁵ <https://www.unfpa.org/occupied-palestinian-territory>

⁶ <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/humanitarian-situation-update-223-gaza-strip>

In southern Lebanon, International Medical Corps has sustained operations at 11 PHCCs and is deploying PSUs specifically designed to serve IDPs living in shelters. Through these recent efforts in the past two weeks, International Medical Corps has delivered 2,949 medical consultations, distributed 590 non-food item kits, conducted health-related awareness-raising sessions for 1,862 people, provided 664 psychological first-aid (PFA) consultations, implemented PFA training for 375 participants from 80 organizations and waived patient fees for 3,252 IDPs. We are the only international NGO to integrate MHPSS services within the shelters—the deployment of our PSUs, paired with our strong partnerships with PHCCs, has enabled this critically needed extension of services to IDPs.

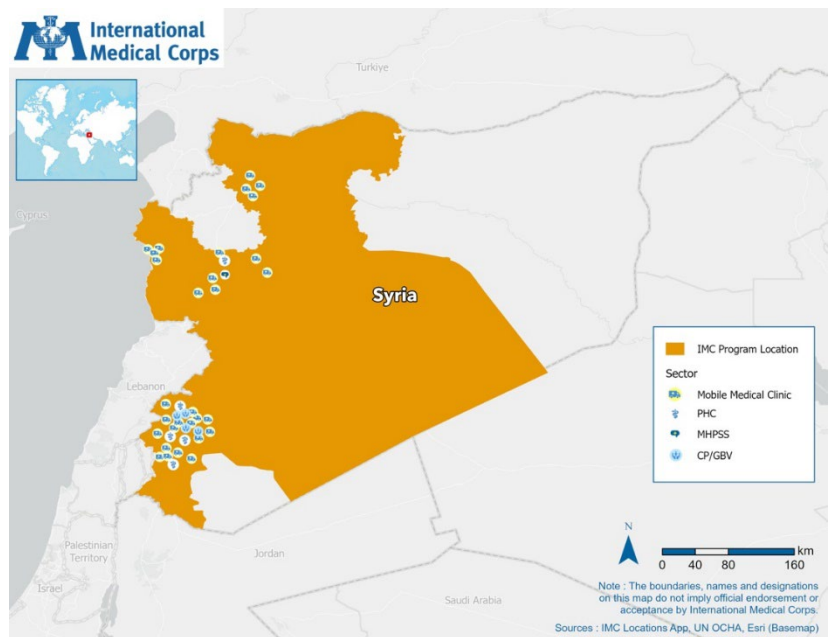
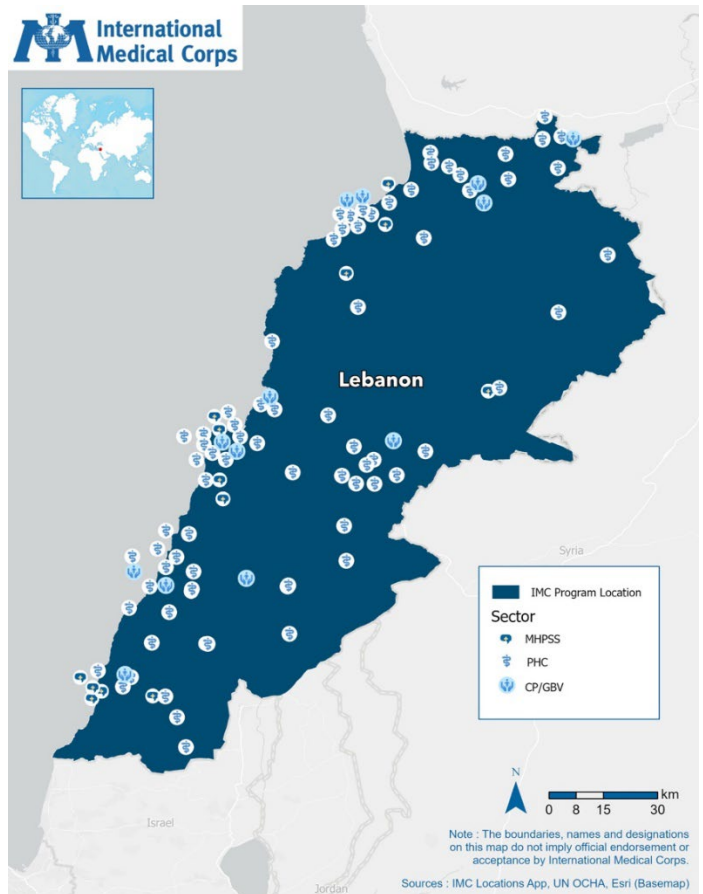
In preparation for potential further escalation, International Medical Corps is mobilizing supplementary PSUs and expanding services to additional shelters, while maintaining close collaboration with local NGOs and the Ministry of Public Health to ensure access to essential medications and supplies. In addition, International Medical Corps has visited shelters to best determine how to extend our reach and has developed contingency plans to adapt to the population's increasing needs.

Syria

The recent surge of attacks in Lebanon has led approximately 100,000 people—60% Syrian and 40% Lebanese—to cross the border into Syria, a figure expected to rise in the coming days. According to UNHCR, 60% of those crossing are under the age of 18.⁷ To support IDPs crossing into Syria, there are currently nine official shelters established through governorates and health departments, along with several unofficial shelters.

International Medical Corps delivers a range of services in Syria, including primary and secondary care, pediatric care, MHPSS, sexual and reproductive health and nutritional screenings. With two primary healthcare clinics and nine mobile medical teams (MMTs), we provide services across a number of governorates, including Aleppo, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Daraa, Hama and Latakia. In the first six months of 2024, we provided 187,088 health consultations, supported 11,017 people with MHPSS services, provided nutrition services to 13,138 people, reached 6,971 people with protection services and provided WASH support to 4,591 people.

Given the influx of IDPs and increasing needs in the country, International Medical Corps has received an urgent request for assistance, which includes an updated list of critically needed medications and supplies. In response to the request and the evolving humanitarian needs, International Medical Corps is preparing to deploy MMTs to Rural Damascus and Homs, to provide healthcare, nutrition, MHPSS, protection and WASH services. International Medical Corps continues to collaborate with the UNHCR, the Ministry of Health, health directorates and other key stakeholders to assess the most urgent needs and respond effectively.



⁷ <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/unhcr-syria-flash-update-4-response-displacement-lebanon-syria-reporting-period-24-29-september-2024-enar>

Yemen

Since October 2023, attacks on commercial ships in the Red Sea—a crucial route for the delivery of medical and nutritional supplies to Yemen—have led to the disruption of international shipping lanes connecting Asia, the Middle East and Europe. The attacks and disruptions in the Red Sea have been further compounded by the decade-old civil war in Yemen, as well as by the recent airstrikes.

International Medical Corps provides integrated health, WASH, nutrition, MHPSS, child protection and GBV services across seven governorates in north and south Yemen. In the first six months of 2024, we have reached 354,522 people, two thirds of them women. We have provided vaccinations to 2,842 people, health consultations to 161,074 and MHPSS services for 2,149. We have supported 71,535 people with nutritional assistance and 82,812 people with WASH services, and helped manage 11,442 cases of acute watery diarrhea across supported health facilities since the outbreak was declared in October 2023.

Given the ripple effects of the conflict in Gaza that have extended to Yemen, International Medical Corps has updated its contingency plans and enhanced its procurement of buffer stock to prevent service interruptions. This strategy is critical, as Yemen is already experiencing acute shortages of food and medicine, with more than 70% of the population relying on humanitarian aid.

