

SITUATION UPDATE



International Medical Corps' field hospital site in Deir Al Balah specializes in lifesaving surgical trauma care, as well as a range of additional services.

It has now been a year since the violence erupted in the Middle East, igniting a conflict that has been the most deadly in the region in years. Nearly all residents in Gaza have been displaced at least once, and masses of civilian infrastructure—including schools, hospitals and other essential facilities—have been destroyed. Access to essential humanitarian aid has been severely restricted, with the population left to suffer the impacts of displacement, disease and starvation.¹

Escalating regional tensions have expanded across the Middle East, including in Lebanon, Syria and Yemen, leading to the loss of civilian lives, injuries and displacement, and igniting immense humanitarian needs across the region. Southern Lebanon's infrastructure has been devastated, leaving thousands of civilians homeless, with limited access to essential services like water, electricity and healthcare.² The conflict in Lebanon has forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee into Syria, a country already suffering the effects of war, displacement and a lack of essential services. In Yemen, the existing humanitarian crisis has been compounded by the extension of airstrikes in the country.

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 conflict across the region, International Medical Corps has rapidly scaled up operations across Gaza and the West Bank, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen, providing a holistic, integrated and coordinated response.

FAST FACTS

- In a year of conflict, more than 41,000 people have been killed and more than 97,000 people have been injured in Gaza, according to OCHA.
- In the two consecutive weeks of airstrikes in Lebanon, more than 2,000 people have been killed and more than 9,000 people have been injured.
- About 400,000 people have crossed from Lebanon into Syria—70% of whom are Syrian and 30% Lebanese.
- Recent airstrikes in Yemen have further degraded one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, with more than 18 million people in need of humanitarian aid.

OUR FOOTPRINT

- We have extensive experience in responding to some of the most pressing needs in the Middle East, having operated in Lebanon since 2006, in Gaza and Syria since 2008 and in Yemen since 2012.
- International Medical Corps has scaled up response activities in the Middle East to meet increasing needs, applying our expertise in health, protection, nutrition, MHPSS, WASH, risk-reduction and capacity-building programs.

OUR RESPONSE

- International Medical Corps has served more than 210,000 people since January across two field hospitals in Gaza.
- In Lebanon, we have distributed medications to more than 300,000 people and have supported laboratory testing for more than 96,000 people in the past year.
- From January to June 2024 in Syria, we provided more than 187,000 health consultations, protection services for more than 6,900 people and WASH services for more than 4,500 people.
- In Yemen, we conducted more than 161,000 health consultations, supported more than 2,000 people with MHPSS services and provided WASH support for more than 82,000 people over six months.

¹ <https://abcnews.go.com/International/israel-hamas-war-year-oct-7-middle-east-crisis-expansion/story?id=114457317>

² [Crisis in the Holy Land escalates to Lebanon - Lebanon | ReliefWeb](#)

Gaza and the West Bank

Ongoing blockades and border closures continue to obstruct humanitarian aid from entering the Gaza Strip, and the aid that does get through is insufficient to address skyrocketing needs. The strained healthcare system has been depleted of essential medicines, medical supplies and fuel, leaving the few remaining functional health facilities overwhelmed with patient loads. An estimated 90% of the civilian population has been displaced at least once and left with little or no access to necessities such as clean water, shelter and medical care.³

International Medical Corps currently has two field hospitals in located in central Gaza: one in Deir al Balah, and one in Al Zawaida. The Deir Al Balah facility specializes in lifesaving surgical trauma care and offers a range of additional services, including physical rehabilitation, comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care, nutrition, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), child protection, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and support, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services. The Al Zawaida location, which initially focused on outpatient care, has recently expanded to include inpatient capacity for post-operative care, sexual and reproductive health (SRH), pediatrics, orthopedics, surgical consultations, pulmonology/cardiology and psychiatric services. The Al Zawaida site also acts as a hub for our multi-sectoral activities, with designated areas for our child-friendly spaces under child protection, women and girls' safe space for GBV, and individual and group counselling spaces for MHPSS and nutrition.

Since the opening of our first field hospital near Rafah in January, our teams have reached more than 210,000 people with comprehensive healthcare services. We have performed more than 7,000 surgeries, including 2,451 major and moderate surgeries with a 98% success rate; conducted more than 3,000 laboratory tests; and delivered 2,591 babies—588 of them via caesarean section. Since we began providing services, International Medical Corps has regularly surged inpatient and surgical capacity to address critical cases referred to us and received due to mass-casualty events. Over the past week, our team has responded to three mass-casualty incidents—rapidly implementing our mass-casualty management protocol to quickly triage and address urgent life-threatening injuries while providing critical MHPSS services to waiting family members. Many of the other cases received have been referred from other local medical facilities due to their complexity and the need for further surgical management.

With a series of new evacuation orders for north and southern Gaza issued over the past few days, International Medical Corps is continuing to adapt our response plans to ensure we have adequate surge capacity to scale up bed capacity and surgical services in anticipation of new waves of displacement and further strikes. This most recent wave of evacuation orders included areas in northern Gaza where hospitals and international community facilities are located, including the Indonesian Hospital, Kamal Adwan and Al Awda Hospital.



International Medical Corps' Nutrition team operates a stabilization center in Deir Al Balah, where more than 70 children under 5 have been admitted as a result of complications related to severe malnutrition.

³ <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/90-of-gaza-residents-have-been-displaced-by-israels-evacuation-orders-un-says#:~:text=orders%2Dun%2Dsays-90%20percent%20of%20Gaza%20residents%20have%20been.Israel's%20evacuation%20orders%2C%20UN%20says>

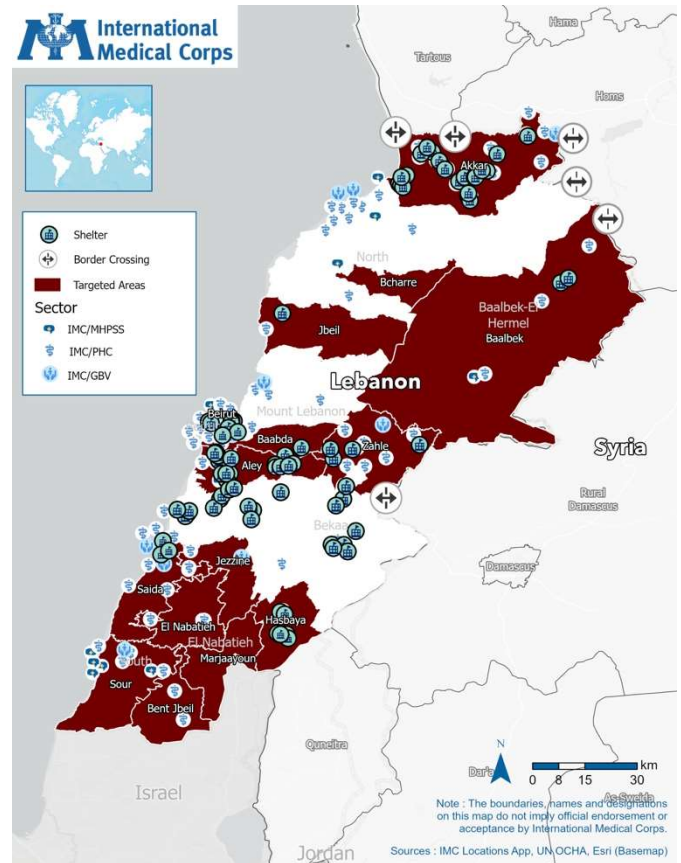
International Medical Corps' nutritional programs have screened more than 91,000 people for malnutrition at the facility and community levels. We have also admitted more than 1,500 people for malnutrition treatment via outpatient services or at our stabilization center, provided micronutrient supplementations for more than 30,000 people and facilitated nutritional counseling for more than 19,700 people. Additionally, we have delivered MHPSS services to more than 13,000 people, including case management services; supported more than 21,000 children and caregivers via our child protection activities; supplied nearly 200,000 people with safe drinking water; and conducted hygiene promotion sessions for more than 21,000 people.

In the West Bank, International Medical Corps is providing MHPSS capacity-building activities and services for vulnerable populations through our partnerships with local organizations. We so far have trained 234 people in MHPSS topics, including detection and referral, psychological first aid (PFA) and self-care. Through local partners, we have provided 2,101 health consultations, responded to 1,697 helpline calls, provided GBV and psychosocial support (PSS) awareness-raising sessions for 196 women, and delivered PSS activities to 3,429 people.

Lebanon

Heavy airstrikes in Lebanon, which have impacted areas including the South, Bekaa and southern suburbs of Beirut, are driving displacement and increasing vulnerabilities for the population. The overall number of available shelters has increased to 984, of which 777 are currently operating at full capacity. These shelters are accommodating approximately 180,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs). According to the National Committee for the Coordination of Response, the number of people directly affected or displaced by the conflict has risen to nearly 1.2 million. The airstrikes have also severely compromised the healthcare system, forcing 57 primary healthcare centers (PHCCs) and three hospitals to close, damaging 21 health facilities, killing 77 healthcare workers and injuring 74 healthcare workers.⁴

Throughout the last year in Lebanon, International Medical Corps has continued to support 53 PHCCs as they have provided 708,695 medical consultations, along with 17 mental health case management teams providing 40,643 MHPSS consultations. As the largest non-governmental health provider in Lebanon, International Medical Corps has been asked by the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) to address continuity of care at the PHCC level and by providing mobile medical services in shelters. As hospitals have become overwhelmed with patients, we also have been requested to support secondary healthcare services, which encompass admissions for high-risk pregnancies, coverage for deliveries, admission of children and other general hospitalizations.



In response to the increasing violence and community needs, International Medical Corps continues to deliver comprehensive healthcare services across 46 of the 53 PHCCs, as seven PHCCs have closed as of late September, due to the conflict. Since October 2023, staff from 26 PHCCs supported by International Medical Corps have visited 62 IDP shelters, using 27 primary satellite units (PSUs). Staff in the PSUs have so far conducted 223 visits, conducting 5,504 consultations, and have provided critically needed pharmaceuticals to 4,415 patients. About 8,230 IDPs have received consultations at International Medical Corps-supported facilities. We are continuing to distribute non-food items (NFIs), with 1,604 hygiene kits, baby kits, dental kits and menstrual kits distributed to date. Furthermore, our community health workers (CHWs) have conducted awareness sessions at the shelters that have reached 2,243 people. Along with PHCC teams, they are actively identifying suspected cases of disease, focusing particularly on screening for acute watery diarrhea (AWD). There are currently 13 suspected cases related to an outbreak of AWD in the area; we have referred these to the MoPH for further investigation and continue to work with the MoPH to manage the outbreak.

International Medical Corps CHWs have screened approximately 220 children under 5 and 30 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) for malnutrition, and have reached 257 caregivers of children aged 0–59 months through awareness-raising sessions on infant and young-child feeding practices.

⁴ [Lebanon: Flash Update #33 - Escalation of hostilities in Lebanon, as of 7 October 2024 - Lebanon | ReliefWeb](#)

Since October 2023 and as part of the MHPSS integrated in PSUs, roving mental-health social workers and case managers provided 822 PFA consultations through mobile medical visits to different shelters. More than 90 cases in need of specialized mental health consultations have been referred to case management teams based in PHCCs, with flexibility in providing remote consultations when needed. To ensure availability of psychotropic medications, we are coordinating with local stakeholders to procure required medications and replenish national stocks. International Medical Corps coordinated with National Mental Health Program (NMHP) to organize PFA training programs for other organizations to equip frontline workers with the skills necessary to provide immediate psychological support to those affected by crises. This initiative built the capacity of more than 250 participants from 80 external organizations to deliver immediate psychological support, thereby expanding the reach and impact of PFA services.

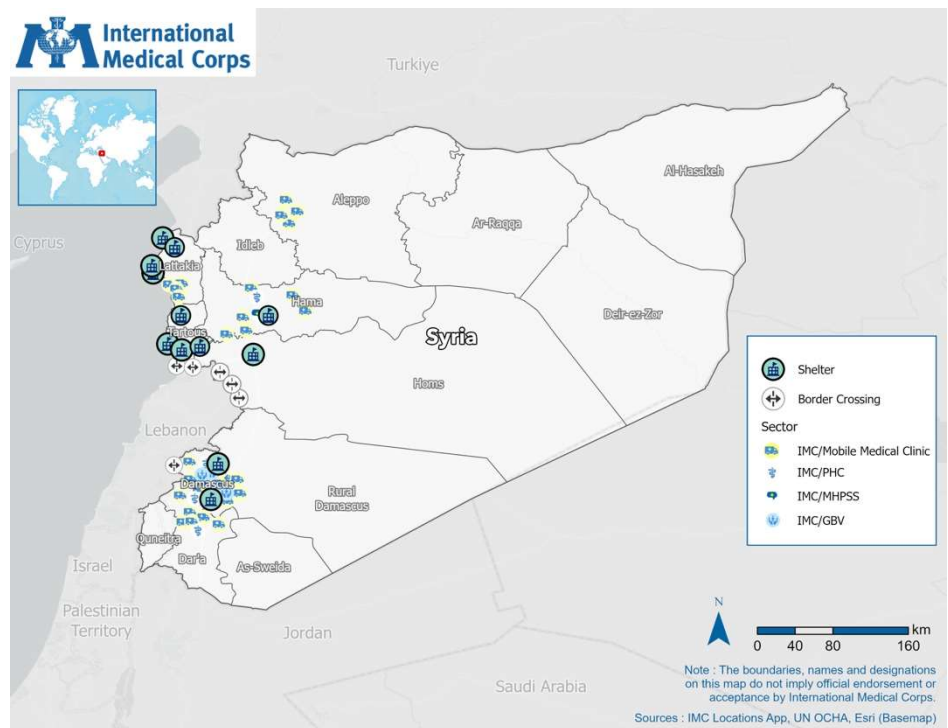
International Medical Corps has also implemented GBV programming by mobilizing case workers, including GBV case workers who are accompanying PSUs and have so far visited six shelters to deliver PFA sessions for IDPs. Case workers have so far provided awareness sessions to 749 IDPs, conducted 45 GBV consultations and 56 non-GBV consultations, facilitated 75 PFA sessions, delivered emergency cash assistance for two people and linked 52 people to other services. Outside of the collective shelters, International Medical Corps has also supported the affected population by providing remote services and welcoming IDPs in women's and girls' safe spaces (WGSS). Through the WGSS, we have conducted 13 PFA sessions, GBV awareness sessions for 62 participants, 31 non-GBV consultations and referrals for 14 IDPs to other requested services.

Syria

The expansion of the conflict into Lebanon has led approximately 400,000 people—70% Syrian and 30% Lebanese—to cross the border into Syria. The quantity of hosting centers in Syria has seen a substantial rise, with more than 40 centers now established throughout Damascus, Homs, Hama, Latakia and Tartous. As of October 5, approximately 1,997 vulnerable Lebanese families, comprising around 10,000 individuals, are being housed in these centers, particularly in the Homs region. In rural Damascus, the Harjeley hosting center is currently accommodating 65 Lebanese families.

International Medical Corps provides 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.

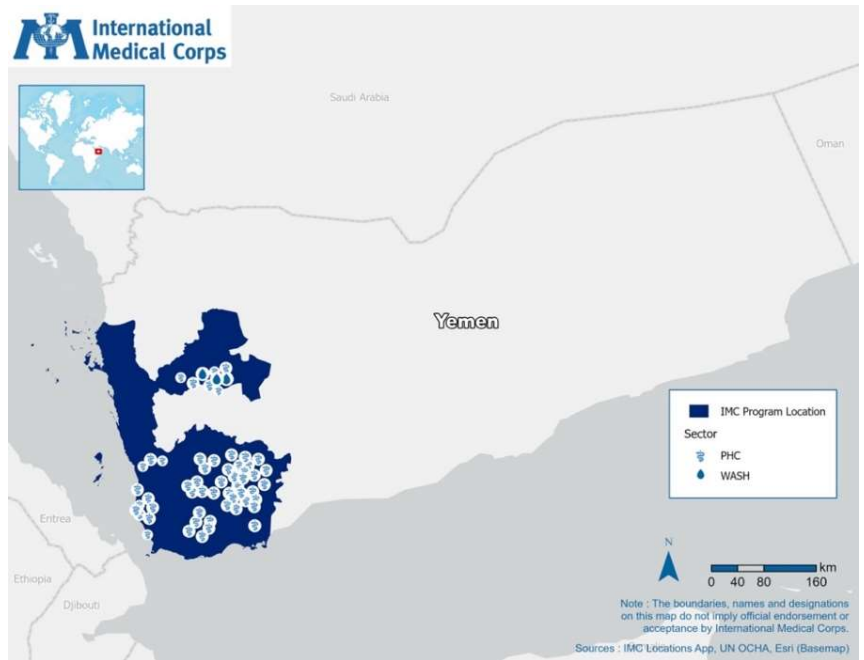
In response to the growing number of IDPs and the diverse needs of refugee, returnee and host communities, International Medical Corps is operating in Sayida Zainab in rural Damascus, deploying 10 MMTs to the area. Furthermore, our team from Hama will travel to Homs to provide support at the monasteries of Mar Elias and Sidh Nadra. Another team is set to deploy to Latakia, specifically to Ras Al-Basit, where it will deliver mobile medical services to a local shelter. Each MMT will include doctors, gynecologists, pediatricians, internists, nurses, case managers and pharmacists, as well as health educators who will offer essential medical care and health guidance to the local population. The teams also will conduct assessments to identify further needs and will coordinate with local authorities to address any specific requests. There is a substantial need for NFIs and dignity kits, as well as significant gaps in WASH services within shelters and host communities.



Yemen

The expansion of the conflict has reached Yemen, which has been struck by a number of airstrikes from military aircraft and warships.⁵ The effects of these attacks have been exacerbated by the decade-old civil war, widespread hunger, disease and poverty that have left more than 18 million Yemenis in need of humanitarian aid.

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 recent extension of the conflict into Yemen, we have updated our contingency plans and enhanced procurement of buffer stock to prevent service interruptions.



⁵ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/video/2024/oct/04/smoke-rises-from-yemen-after-us-airstrikes-hit-houthi-targets-video>