



International Medical Corps volunteer nurse Jannina Rivera administers eyedrops to a shelter resident at a general-population shelter in Asheville, North Carolina.

Nearly a month after Hurricanes Helene and Milton tore through Florida and much of the Southeast, communities in Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas and Tennessee continue to feel the resounding impacts of the devastating storms. The two hurricanes brought high winds, historic levels of rainfall and deadly landslides, causing significant damage not only to homes, buildings and roads, but also to the power grid, connectivity, water, sewage and sanitation services.

Hurricane Helene hit the Big Bend region of Florida on September 26 as a Category 4 storm before making its way through inland communities of Georgia, the Carolinas and Tennessee, causing catastrophic flooding and landslides, and extensive cell, power and water outages. This storm is responsible for more than 230 deaths across six states. Less than two weeks later, **Hurricane Milton** made landfall south of Tampa, Florida, on October 9 as a Category 3 storm, releasing heavy rainfall and multiple outbreaks of tornadoes as it cut across the peninsula. At least 24 deaths related to Hurricane Milton have been confirmed.¹

Hurricanes Helene and Milton are collectively responsible for at least 255 deaths and current estimates suggest at least \$300 billion in damage.² As communities adjust to a new normal and as cooler weather approaches, residents remain exceedingly vulnerable to numerous challenges, including an increased risk of water- and vector-borne diseases, contaminated mud, damaged sanitation systems, reduced access to potable water, worsening of existing health conditions, disrupted and decreased access to healthcare, lost wages and shelter, and increased mental stress.

FAST FACTS

- **Hurricane Helene** and **Hurricane Milton** made landfall in Florida less than two weeks apart as Category 4 and Category 3 hurricanes, causing at least 255 deaths and extensive infrastructure damage across Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas and Tennessee. Many affected communities across several states have yet to regain power or access to clean water.
- The long-term implications of the storm are extensive, with economic and property losses from Hurricane Helene alone anticipated to be as much as \$250 billion.
- In 2024, there have been **15 named Atlantic storms**, including **six hurricanes** that have made landfall in the United States and territories. These storms have caused more than **320 deaths** in the US and territories alone.

OUR RESPONSE

- In response to **Hurricane Helene**, International Medical Corps deployed teams to Florida, Georgia and North Carolina, and is supporting partners in Tennessee.
- In North Carolina, International Medical Corps has deployed 47 volunteers to provide medical and behavioral health services in three shelters and one community-care station in Buncombe County, where hard-hit Asheville is located. To date, the team has provided 1,118 clinical encounters, including 870 administrations of over-the-counter medications, and 248 medical and 124 behavioral health consultations.
- In response to **Hurricane Milton**, International Medical Corps is coordinating with the Florida Association of Community Health Centers (FACHC) and two local FQHC networks to meet urgent needs.
- To date, across affected states, International Medical Corps has distributed 1,512 wound-care kits, 10,144 hygiene kits and 19,001 hygiene items, including first-aid supplies, mosquito repellent, handwashing stations, water bladders, 20 portable toilets, 14 1,000-gallon water tanks and 6,000 gallons of potable water to 80 health centers and local partners.

¹ <https://www.cbsnews.com/live-updates/hurricane-milton-2024/>

² <https://www.science.org/content/article/daunting-hurricane-battered-researchers-assess-damage-helene-and-milton>

International Medical Corps' Response

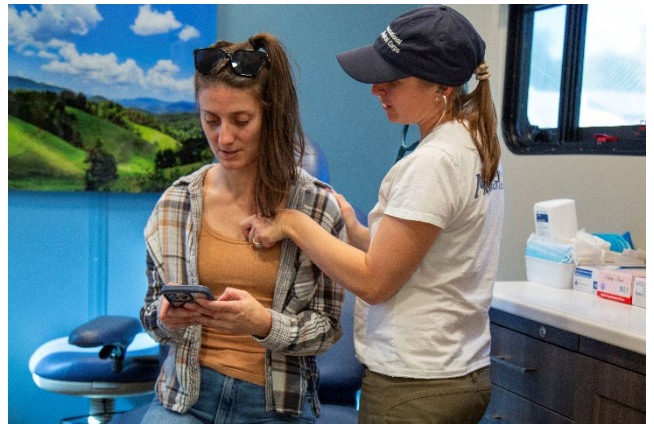
In **Florida**, International Medical Corps is coordinating closely with the Florida Association of Community Health Centers (FACHC), existing health facility partners, and county- and state-run distribution centers to identify and disseminate urgently needed emergency supplies, equipment and other items in response to **Hurricane Milton**. One federally qualified health center (FQHC) network, located south of Tampa, that was heavily impacted by Hurricane Milton has reported that four of its health facilities have been closed due to severe damage. International Medical Corps is working to support the reopening of these facilities.

Across **Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee**, International Medical Corps is continuing our response to the impacts of **Hurricane Helene**. To date, we have facilitated the shipment and distribution of 10,144 hygiene kits, 1,512 wound-care kits and 19,001 hygiene and emergency items to 80 sites—including health facilities, community centers and recovery centers—across the region. Additionally, we have delivered 1,000-gallon tanks to 14 clinics, as well as 6,000 gallons of potable water and 20 portable toilets to health facilities, to ensure they could restore and continue their operations and services. Our response has enabled 29 FQHCs to reopen and resume services.

In **North Carolina**, International Medical Corps continues to deliver direct medical and behavioral health services to residents living in Buncombe County shelters. Since beginning services on October 13, we have deployed a total of 47 local and out-of-state professionals—including doctors, mental health clinicians, nurses, pharmacists and clinical social workers—to provide 24-hour essential medical and behavioral healthcare to one medical-needs shelter and two general-population shelters. With needs changing day by day, International Medical Corps is working with Buncombe County officials, the Red Cross and other partners to support shelter consolidation and transition planning as the response moves on from early recovery. Our health team continues to provide around-the-clock care at two general-population shelters and a mobile medical unit (MMU), while services at the medical-needs shelter concluded on October 21 after successful relocation of all residents to other accommodations. In collaboration with the National Guard and with the support of Western North Carolina Health Services, a local FQHC, International Medical Corps is operating an MMU at a community-care station in Buncombe County where community members also can access services such as restrooms, hot showers, laundry, internet, charging stations, hot food and potable water.

In preparation for the emergence of seasonal illnesses, International Medical Corps has ensured that all medical teams are well stocked with combination COVID-19/influenza tests, to support increased testing of shelter residents served and to help prevent the spread of communicable diseases, particularly in shelters where residents are living in close quarters. Following recommendations for an isolation plan at the largest shelter, International Medical Corps worked closely with the shelter management and the county's communicable-disease nursing team to provide medical services for a shelter resident who tested positive for COVID-19. The isolation accommodations enabled the resident to recover in the shelter while keeping other residents safe. The behavioral health team continues to deliver consultations at the general population shelters. With the use of psychological first aid, the team has played a crucial role in alleviating concerns among community members surrounding upcoming shelter transitions in the ongoing recovery. The behavioral health team will continue to help shelter residents, providing ongoing emotional support as shelter transitions and consolidations progress in the coming weeks. To date, International Medical Corps has provided 1,118 clinical encounters, including 870 administrations of over-the-counter medications, and 248 medical and 124 behavioral health consultations, at all service sites. As the community looks to establish long-term solutions to those displaced by Hurricane Helene, International Medical Corps is coordinating closely with the County Department of Health and Human Services and the Red Cross to ensure a smooth and effective transition.

This week, International Medical Corps facilitated the supply of 2,000 gallons of potable water to Mitchell and Jackson County. To date, International Medical Corps has facilitated the delivery of 6,000 gallons of water, including to rural and hard-to-reach facilities. International Medical Corps continues to coordinate with local partners—including the North Carolina Primary Care Association (PCA), the National Association of Rural Health Clinics and the National Association of Community Health Centers—to identify and support the needs of FQHC and community health partners across the state. With International Medical Corps' support, 20 health centers in the state that were offline in the wake of Hurricane Helene are now operational. International Medical Corps has provided 14 health centers with 1,000-gallon water tanks, and 10 health centers with two portable toilets each, as part of ongoing support to meet urgent and essential water and sanitation needs. In addition to water supplies, we have provided the 14 health centers with portable showers, camping toilets, handwashing stations, tables, chairs, tarps and canopies.



International Medical Corps volunteer Dr. Natalie Moore conducts a medical consultation in the mobile medical unit at the Community Care Station in Buncombe County, North Carolina.

In **Tennessee**, International Medical Corps continues to support two FQHC networks by delivering essential vaccines and emergency preparedness and response equipment, including a shipment this week of first-aid kits, items to help with water, sanitation and hygiene, and other relief supplies. To date, we have provided 200 doses of tetanus vaccines and 200 doses of hepatitis A vaccines, and more than 3,000 hygiene items, including hand sanitizer, diapers, insect repellent and sinks; 1,200 medical-supply items, first-aid kits and insulin cookers; and 200 relief and recovery supplies, including work gloves and batteries. The team continues to coordinate closely with local partners to understand and support their needs as services and operations are restored.



International Medical Corps staff fill a water tank at Western North Carolina Community Health Services, a local FQHC.

This week in **Georgia**, International Medical Corps received a request from an FQHC in Augusta, Georgia, with urgent needs for first-aid kits, and hygiene and baby items, and is working closely with the health center to meet these needs. International Medical Corps also continues to coordinate with Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA), the Georgia PCA, the Georgia Department of Public Health’s Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and several other FQHC networks to support their ongoing needs.

In **Florida**, International Medical Corps delivered a trauma-care kit and supplies to Steinhatchee Community Health Center in Big Bend, Florida. The community center has served as a resource center for affected residents, facilitating pathways to resources and services. Medical personnel at the center reported an increase in people arriving with acute injuries sustained from cleanup and recovery efforts. With the nearest emergency department 45 minutes away, these supplies will provide medical personnel with the materials needed to receive and stabilize trauma injuries.

International Medical Corps in the US and Territories

International Medical Corps has been an emergency responder in the United States and Caribbean since 2005, when we partnered with local community clinics overwhelmed by Hurricane Katrina. In the US, International Medical Corps works with national, state and local partners and agencies in the healthcare system to deploy emergency response teams in response to disasters and address the significant challenges that face domestic healthcare services.

Response to Hurricane Helene		
4 States supported	18 Counties supported	47 Volunteers deployed
19 FQHCs supported	4 State governments supported	3 Non-profit organizations supported
80 Health facilities supported	870 administrations of over-the-counter medication	248 Medical health consultations 124 Behavioral health consultations
1,512 Wound-care kits distributed	10,144 Hygiene kits distributed	19,001 Hygiene products distributed
1,150 Other relief and recovery supplies distributed	82 Food items	2,011 Units of medical supplies
95 Water and sanitation items	14 Water tanks	6,000 Gallons of potable water
734,934 indirect beneficiaries		

*services since October 13, 2024

2024 Atlantic Hurricane Season Response*

