

SITUATION UPDATE



After being injured in an explosion, Majday Abu Fayyed underwent surgery at our field hospital in Deir al Balah to correct multiple complex injuries. After 34 physiotherapy sessions, Majday can now walk independently using an assistive device.

Humanitarian conditions in Gaza have continued to deteriorate given the ongoing conflict and severe limitations on the delivery of food, medical aid and fuel.¹ And though a ceasefire has been implemented, violence in Lebanon has forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee into neighboring Syria, where airstrikes continue to be reported amid a civil war that has already left millions in need of humanitarian assistance. The escalating conflict in the region has left communities in dire need of essential supplies and services, including safe water, healthcare, vaccinations, food and nutritional support, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and protection services.²

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 and is providing a holistic, integrated and coordinated response across Gaza and the West Bank, Lebanon and Syria.

Gaza and the West Bank

Ongoing bombardment across the Gaza Strip has led to tens of thousands of civilian casualties, mass displacement, severe disruptions in communications and the destruction of infrastructure. The humanitarian situation in the North Gaza Governorate has continued to rapidly deteriorate—displacing up to 130,000 people—due to an intensification of attacks there. Attempts to access besieged areas in North Gaza with humanitarian aid have been hindered, leaving thousands of people even more vulnerable to malnutrition and disease. Health conditions across Gaza have continued to decline given

FAST FACTS

- About 44,000 Palestinians have been killed and more than 104,000 have been injured in Gaza since the conflict began in October 2023, according to OCHA.
- In Lebanon, since the beginning of the conflict, the total number of deaths has reached 3,642, with injuries totaling 15,356.
- Since September 24, an estimated 540,000 people have been displaced from Lebanon to Syria, according to UNHCR, which also says that a missile struck a crossing point near Al Qusair on November 14.

OUR FOOTPRINT

- In Gaza, International Medical Corps operates two field hospitals, in Deir Al Balah and Al Zawaida, with nearly 1,000 staff.
- In Lebanon, International Medical Corps' 288 national staff members are supporting 53 primary healthcare centers (PHCCs) and have deployed 45 primary healthcare satellite units (PSUs).
- In Syria, where we have 255 staff, our response includes 13 mobile medical teams (MMTs) and two PHCCs.

OUR RESPONSE

- Since January, International Medical Corps has reached more than 283,000 civilians in Gaza with critical healthcare services.
- In Lebanon, between October 23 and November 19, our PSUs facilitated 17,135 consultations, contributing to an overall tally of 40,970 primary healthcare consultations for internally displaced persons. We also have distributed more than 8,600 hygiene kits and essential medications to more than 15,800 people.
- Since the beginning of October of this year, International Medical Corps' MMTs in Syria have provided consultations to than 8,360 patients.

¹ <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/humanitarian-situation-update-239-gaza-strip-enar>

² <https://www.unicefusa.org/what-unicef-does/where-unicef-works/middle-east>.

the decimation of healthcare services and impediments to access that humanitarian organizations are facing.³

In response to the widespread devastation and increasing needs, International Medical Corps currently has two field hospitals located in central Gaza—one in Deir Al Balah and one in Al Zawaida—with a total capacity of more than 250 beds, including 20 in the Emergency Room and 170 in the surgical department. Our Deir Al Balah facility, which specializes in lifesaving surgical trauma care, offers a range of additional services, including physical rehabilitation, comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care, nutrition, MHPSS, child protection (CP), gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and support, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services.

Our Al Zawaida location, which initially focused on outpatient care, has recently expanded to include inpatient capacity for post-operative care, sexual and reproductive health, pediatrics, orthopedics, surgical consultations, pulmonology/cardiology and psychiatric services. The site also acts as a hub for our multi-sectoral activities, with designated areas for our child-friendly spaces under CP, a women and girls' safe space (WGSS) for providing GBV services, and individual and group counselling spaces for MHPSS and nutrition.

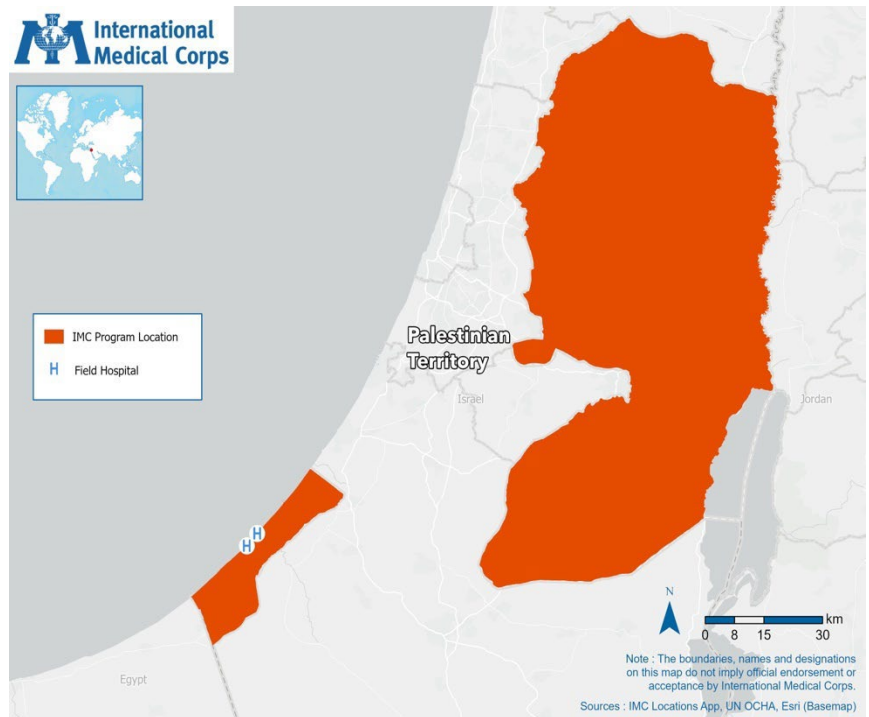
Since the opening of our first field hospital near Rafah in January, our teams have reached some 283,300 people with comprehensive healthcare services. Of these, more than 67,270 consultations have been for children, involving such conditions as upper respiratory tract infections, skin diseases, acute watery diarrhea and acute jaundice syndrome. Most consultations for non-communicable diseases have been related to hypertension (49%) and diabetes (30%), followed by asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and other diseases.

The team has also performed more than 8,500 surgeries, with one-third categorized as either major or moderate, including cesarean sections, thoracotomies and laparotomies. Of all the surgeries performed, about half have been orthopedic surgeries. Furthermore, International Medical Corps has delivered 3,591 babies, with one-fifth delivered through caesarian section.

International Medical Corps has screened more than 108,840 people for malnutrition via our "Find and Treat" campaign and within our field hospitals. Under our nutrition programming, we have also admitted 1,893 people for malnutrition treatment, distributed micronutrient supplementation to 35,089 people and provided 82,425 hot meals to inpatients, staff and caregivers at the field hospitals.

Along with our health and nutrition activities, International Medical Corps provides protection services—including CP, MHPSS and GBV—at both field hospitals. For CP, International Medical Corps provides structured psychosocial and skills-building programs, non-structured activities, structured sessions for parents, individual counseling and case management. Nearly 19,530 children and caregivers have participated in our CP programs. For MHPSS, International Medical Corps provides individual and group psychosocial support via psychosocial workers and psychologists. More than 8,130 people have benefitted from individual and group psychosocial support sessions, with the average duration of care being two months. For GBV, International Medical Corps has an established WGSS where women and girls participate in group empowerment sessions, yoga, life skills and other socialization activities. International Medical Corps also has a team of GBV case managers who provide comprehensive case management and referrals for GBV survivors. All survivors receive at least four sessions of case management, with the team having so far provided care for more than 512 women. More than 28,000 women and girls have accessed services—including group sessions, WGSS and case management services—via our GBV team.

Our WASH team continues to provide vital services at our field hospitals. We have provided more than 236,200 people with access to safe drinking water, offered access to sanitation facilities for more than 142,500 people and conducted hygiene promotion sessions for more than 27,450. These awareness-raising sessions are focused on key health and hygiene topics such as infection prevention and control, hand hygiene and polio vaccination.



³ <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/humanitarian-situation-update-237-gaza-strip-enarhe>

In the West Bank, International Medical Corps has partnered with local organizations to provide MHPSS capacity-building activities and services for vulnerable populations. We have so far trained 450 people in MHPSS topics—including detection and referral, psychological first aid (PFA) and self-care. Through our partnerships, we have provided 3,594 health consultations, responded to 2,629 helpline calls, provided GBV and psychosocial support (PSS) awareness-raising sessions for 810 women, and delivered PSS activities to 4,354 people.

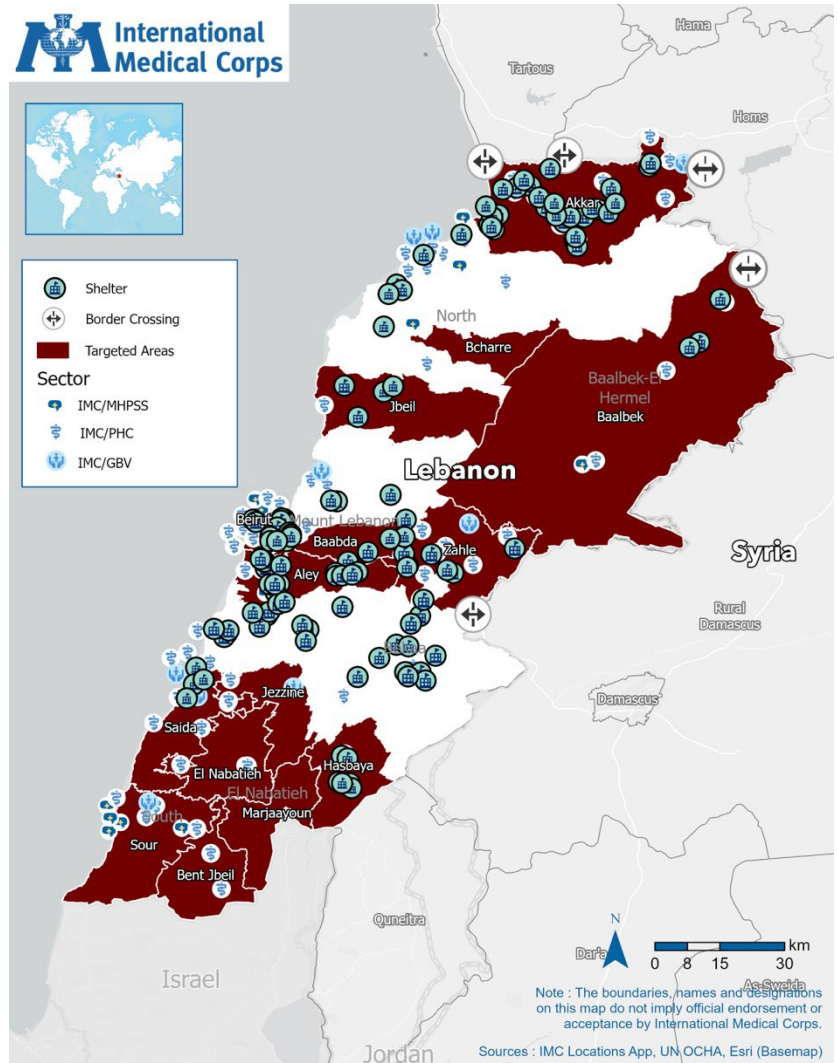
Lebanon

Though a ceasefire has been implemented, the effects of conflict in Lebanon continue to be felt across the nation. Since the beginning of the conflict, 3,642 people have been killed and 15,356 have been injured. The total registered number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in accredited shelters stands at 190,102 individuals (44,400 families). To accommodate the increasing number of IDPs, 1,200 shelters have been established throughout Lebanon, of which 981 have reached maximum capacity. The national healthcare infrastructure and system have been significantly affected by the conflict, with 15 out of 153 hospitals rendered non-functional, either ceasing operations or significantly reducing their services.⁴ Notably, some primary healthcare centers (PHCCs) have resumed services following staffing adjustments and repairs.⁵

International Medical Corps is supporting 190 of the established shelters through the deployment of 45 primary healthcare satellite units (PSUs). Between October 23 and November 19, these PSUs facilitated 17,135 consultations, contributing to 40,970 primary healthcare consultations provided to IDPs—who also are being served at our supported PHCCs. Our PSUs have also provided 836 reproductive health consultations within the shelters and vaccinated 1,020 children. Furthermore, we have delivered essential medications to more than 15,888 patients, distributed 493 assistive devices to people in shelters and during home visits, provided packs of diapers to 170 elderly people and people with disabilities, conducted awareness-raising sessions on a variety of health topics for 7,325 people and distributed 8,689 hygiene kits. At the secondary level, we have covered healthcare expenses for 22 children under 5, as well as for the deliveries of 31 pregnant women, including three high-risk pregnancies. We also provided emergency ambulatory services to 403 patients requiring care.

Our Nutrition team has screened more than 800 children and 170 pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) for malnutrition, facilitated awareness-raising on infant and young-child feeding practices for 647 people, and provided micronutrient supplementation to 156 children under 5 and 32 PLWs.

As part of our integrated MHPSS initiatives within the PSUs, our mental health professionals—including social workers and case managers—have conducted 2,600 PSS consultations, including PFA messaging during visits to 63 shelters. Our teams have identified and referred 464 cases requiring more specialized mental health consultations to case management



⁴ <https://www.who.int/news/item/22-11-2024-lebanon--a-conflict-particularly-destructive-to-health-care>

⁵ <https://drmlc.com/portal/apps/sites/#!/daily-situation-report>

teams located in the PHCCs. We are also providing case management services both in-person at PHCCs and remotely when security conditions restrict access. Staff care support, including group and individual sessions, is provided to frontline staff when needed.

Our GBV social workers are providing mobile activities and support within collective shelters. Since the escalation of the crisis, they have conducted 466 PFA consultations in these shelters, reaching approximately 937 people through various awareness activities focused on GBV prevention messages. Additionally, they have facilitated 23 GBV-specific consultations alongside other non-GBV consultations. Our distribution of dignity kits is also ongoing, with 937 kits distributed to date. Our teams are continuing to facilitate activities in WGSSs, both in static locations in the northern and southern regions, and remotely when necessary. Since the escalation of hostilities, our GBV team has continued to offer PSS sessions to 13 groups, with a cycle of multiple sessions conducted weekly for each one of the groups—including groups for caregivers and adolescent girls—and have so far reached 1,388 participants with awareness-raising activities on GBV key messages. So far, there have been 114 PFA consultations and 50 GBV consultations for women survivors of GBV as part of the case management process at the WGSSs, in addition to other non-GBV consultations. Remote awareness sessions are also continuing to be provided when needed; the GBV staff has targeted 337 persons through these activities.



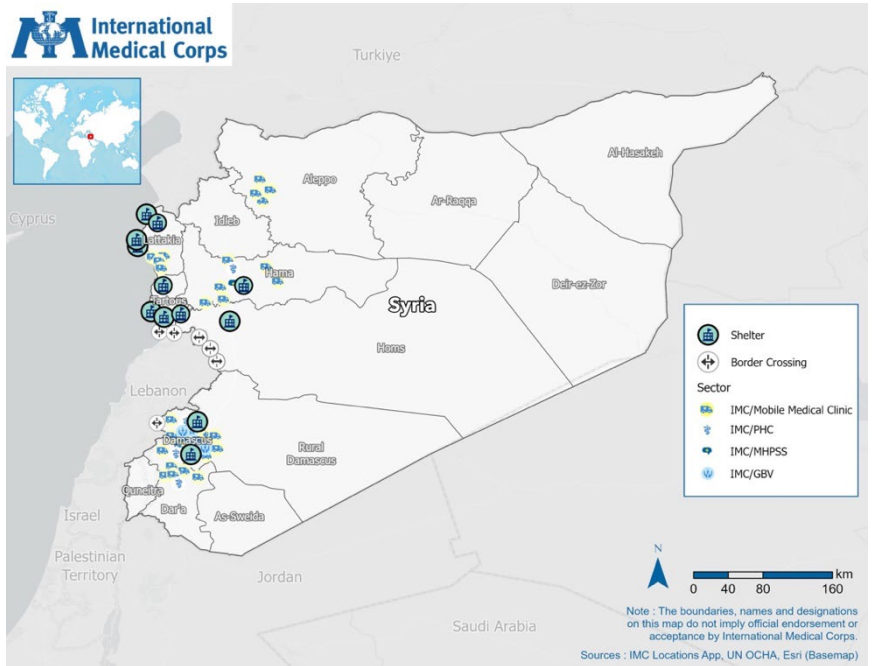
Team members in Lebanon distribute hygiene kits to impacted communities in Mechmech.

Syria

As of the latest assessment, approximately 540,000 people have arrived in Syria—a country already left vulnerable by 14 years of conflict and crisis—from Lebanon. This population comprises 63% Syrians and 37% people from Lebanon and other nations. The overall humanitarian situation is deteriorating, with a pre-existing caseload of 16.7 million people requiring aid. The International Committee of the Red Cross has recently emphasized the need for increased funding support, noting that two out of every three people are in critical need of lifesaving and sustainable humanitarian assistance.

Since September 24, the number of people requiring assistance has significantly increased, primarily due to ongoing violence that has forced many to flee their homes. Though there has been a reported decrease in attacks on individuals crossing the border, particularly around the Masha border crossing between Lebanon and Syria, infrastructure damage—such as a severely compromised road near the crossing—has limited transportation options.

The reduction in official cross-border movement has been attributed to the presence of loud aircraft sounds that deter potential crossings. Additionally, missile attacks near Al Qusair in southern Homs have resulted in casualties and further restricted movement across the border. Currently, approximately 400 people are crossing daily, primarily from Baalbek and Stura in Lebanon to various locations in Syria, including Aleppo, Damascus and Homs.⁶ Despite this reduction in official crossings, the number of unofficial border crossings is reportedly increasing.⁷



⁶ <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/unhcr-syria-emergency-response-brief-17-november-2024-enar>

⁷ <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/inter-agency-emergency-appeal-influx-lebanon-syria-progress-report-31-october-2024>

We have 13 mobile medical teams (MMTs) operating in Syria, four of which have been deployed in response to extend services in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs and Lattakia, and plan to deploy an additional four teams in Hama and Aleppo areas following assessments that indicated a pressing need for support for returnees and refugees. These MMTs will begin operations in the beginning of December, although staffing shortages present a significant challenge.

Since early October, we have provided 8,360 consultations, ensuring access to essential primary healthcare services, with 69% of beneficiaries being female. 1,795 consultations have been for communicable diseases, focusing on both prevention and treatment, and 659 have been focused on sexual and reproductive health concerns. We also have provided consultations to 500 people with disabilities—80 of whom received assistive devices—and dispensed 394,490 medications to ensure ongoing care.

International Medical Corps has provided 2,476 children under the age of 18 with targeted healthcare services and conducted 2,706 health education sessions aimed at promoting preventive health measures within the community. We also have also extended MHPSS support to 118 people and assisted with 53 child protection cases.