



An International Medical Corps mental health consultant provides care and distributes supplies to fire-affected residents returning to their homes in the Pacific Palisades on Sunday, January 26.

Los Angeles received heavy rain showers this weekend, with flash-flood and thunderstorm warnings issued across the region. Though the rain brought a welcome respite to the dry weather fueling the ongoing wildfires, it has also increased the risk of mudslides and runoff of toxic materials, ash and dust.

After burning through more than 40,000 acres of land for almost three weeks, the Palisades and Eaton fires are now almost fully contained, with the Hurst fire close behind. However, the threat of fires remains, as the Border 2 fire continues to burn in San Diego.

Though the major Los Angeles fires are nearing full containment, the region still must deal with the aftermath, including the large-scale destruction and the realization of total loss. The fires have burned more than 16,000 structures—including homes, schools, community centers, workplaces and places of worship—disrupting entire livelihoods.

Authorities have cleared many community members to return to their neighborhoods, but the high levels of damage, toxic materials and non-operational water and power systems have guaranteed that what remains is uninhabitable, leaving many in a continued state of displacement. As affected residents face the long-term implications of the fires—including displacement, exacerbated health conditions and extreme property and financial loss—there is a heavy mental and emotional toll.

Shelters remain open to meet the increased demand for housing. However, many immediate support initiatives, such as free housing vouchers and medical care, have begun to be phased out. Los Angeles faces a long-recovery process, and continued medical, mental, emotional, financial and housing support remains critical.

FAST FACTS

- Los Angeles received heavy rain showers this weekend, breaking the long dry spell while increasing the risk of flash floods, mudslides and debris runoff.
- The Palisades, Eaton and Hurst fires in the Los Angeles area are nearly fully contained; but the Border 2 fire in San Diego continues to burn. These fires have damaged more than 16,000 structures, including homes, schools, community centers and places of worship, and have left many remaining structures and areas uninhabitable.
- Though many residents have been cleared to return to their homes to survey the damage, health risks remain in these destroyed regions.
- There is an extensive need for mental health support, as community members grapple with loss and uncertainty, and consider the future.

OUR RESPONSE

- International Medical Corps deployed an emergency response team to the Los Angeles area within 24 hours of the fires' outbreak.
- 31 medical and mental health professionals have been deployed to deliver direct medical services to evacuees within two regional shelters and provide mental health services in communities.
- The mental health team rapidly developed and is distributing tailored [mental health resources](#) to families and individuals affected by the fires, with referrals to helplines, phone applications and exercises to process the change and loss.
- The team has so far distributed:
 - more than 25,000 response, recovery and medical items, including air purifiers, nebulizer compressors, bags, medicine bottles, adult diapers and children's toys; and
 - 4,256 hygiene kits, 4,176 wound-care kits and 10,254 face masks to shelters, health centers and community-based organizations.
- International Medical Corps continues to coordinate closely with local, state and regional agencies, including the Los Angeles Mayor's Office, California Department of Public Health, California Emergency Medical Services Authority, California Primary Care Association, California Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County, the Red Cross, and local organizations, shelters and health centers serving low-income and other vulnerable groups.

International Medical Corps' Response

Headquartered in Los Angeles, International Medical Corps deployed an Emergency Response Team on January 8, within 24 hours of the fires' outbreak. We continue to work closely with national, state, county and local responders—including the American Red Cross, the California Department of Public Health, the California Emergency Medical Services Authority, the LA Mayor's office, the California Primary Care Association and the Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County—to identify and meet the needs of community members.

International Medical Corps has deployed 31 medical and mental health professionals—most of whom are local to California—to provide critical care in shelters, distribution centers and re-entry points.

Since January 20, our medical teams have provided regular care in the Pasadena Convention Center, a Red Cross-managed shelter housing more than 300 people. Beginning Tuesday, January 28, International Medical Corps will solely provide around-the-clock medical care, as other medical providers transition out, working collaboratively with the Red Cross and other providers to ensure a smooth transition of care. At the request of the Red Cross and in coordination with the Los Angeles Department of Mental Health, International Medical Corps will also begin to provide mental health services to Pasadena shelter residents. Our team are also continuing to provide medical care at the Westwood Recreation Center and will begin providing mental health services this week. We have so far conducted 83 medical consultations and have provided 37 patients with over-the-counter nursing care. As community members re-enter their neighborhoods and homes, International Medical Corps has partnered with Lestonnac Free Clinic to provide medical and mental health services through a mobile medical unit that can be stationed at key locations where affected individuals and families gather.

International Medical Corps' mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) team has been providing community-based mental health care to individuals, families, health workers and first responders at various community gatherings, churches, distribution points, shelters and re-entry points near both the Pacific Palisades and Eaton fires. In addition to providing crisis counseling, psychological first aid and emotional support to individuals, the team promptly developed a [list of free mental-health resources](#) to distribute to families and individuals as they gather in these spaces. Given the great need for this resource, other entities and organizations, including Cal Fire, have incorporated this resource on their own websites. Since beginning services on January 17, our team has reached more than 524 community members with outreach services and have conducted 236 one-on-one MHPSS consultations.

International Medical Corps is also distributing urgently needed relief and response supplies. The team has delivered more than 25,000 hygiene, medical and recovery items—including air purifiers, nebulizer compressors, bags, medicine bottles, adult diapers and children's toys—to shelters, including the Pasadena Convention Center; to local non-profits, including HOPICS, which provides care to people experiencing homelessness; and to federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), including Gracelight Community Health, and All for Health, Health for All, which provides medical services to low-income and other vulnerable community members.

Our teams also have distributed more than 10,254 KN95 or N95 face masks to residents, shelter staff and first responders. We have distributed 4,176 first-aid and wound-care kits, and 4,256 individual hygiene kits, directly to community members affected by all three fires and to partners such as the USC Street Medicine team, health centers, other local organizations and government agencies. Our teams have supported two non-profit organizations, Dream Center and It's Bigger than Us, that provide direct donation and resource support to community members, and have provided them with Amazon Base Camp pallets with materials that include canopies, dry bags and toolkits.

In addition, we have provided communication equipment and internet connectivity to shelters to support internet connectivity for residents, staff and first responders—a critical resource, as displaced people contact FEMA, work, landlords and more.



An International Medical Corps volunteer nurse receives mobile medical unit telehealth training, enabling her to deliver care as needed.



International Medical Corps staff members deliver hygiene kits, wound-care kits and N95 face masks to Gracelight, a federally qualified health center.

To support immediate relief and ongoing recovery, International Medical Corps is directly supporting community health centers that serve vulnerable populations. Many health center patients and staff have been directly impacted by the wildfires, which has in turn limited the operational capacity of the FQHCs. We are working to provide funds to offset patient copays to support low-income populations, are providing housing allowances for health center staff and continue to work to fill other urgently needed gaps for health staff and patients who have been affected.

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 to deploy emergency response teams in response to disasters and address the significant challenges that face domestic healthcare services.

In the last seven years, International Medical Corps has engaged and supported a partner network of more than 275 hospitals, clinics, health and health-related facilities, and non-profit organizations across 18 states and territories in the United States, delivering health resources, services and training to more than 6 million patients and providers. International Medical Corps has collaborated since 2020 with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Services, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority and local partner organizations.

In 2020 and 2021, International Medical Corps implemented a robust response to the COVID-19 outbreak nationwide. In the greater Los Angeles area, we deployed emergency medical field units and equipment to seven LA-area safety-net hospitals, delivered training and personal protective equipment to 51 LA-area long-term eldercare facilities and 176 LA-area health workers, managed a vaccination site at Kedren Community Health Center in south LA that delivered 140,000 vaccinations, and distributed 305 pieces of medical equipment and more than 2 million pieces of personal protective equipment to LA-area hospitals, health facilities and emergency medical services. In 2021, International Medical Corps conducted a multi-component project in California’s Central Valley to build the capacity of vulnerable populations in wildfire-impacted communities to better withstand and recover from wildfires.

Response to LA Wildfires

11 sites supported	31 medical and MHPSS professionals deployed
4,256 hygiene Kits distributed	1,280 first-aid kits distributed
17,048 hygiene products distributed	10,254 face masks distributed
7,283 medical supplies distributed	2,896 wound-care kits distributed
797 other relief & recovery supplies distributed	784 air-quality items distributed
236 mental health consultations	524 participants in mental health outreach
83 medical consultations	37 patients provided with over-the-counter care
19,739 direct beneficiaries	83,702 indirect beneficiaries