



An International Medical Corps doctor and nurse fix a splint for a shelter resident at the Pasadena Convention Center.

Though the Los Angeles wildfires are now fully contained, residents face a long road to recovery. The Palisades, Eaton and other wildfires that first began January 7 burned across the region for nearly a month and consumed entire neighborhoods, leaving toxic debris and bringing destruction to houses, schools, community centers and places of worship—ultimately disrupting entire livelihoods. More than 200,000 residents were displaced at one point due to the fires, and many still need long-term housing. Affected community members have experienced profound financial and property losses, significant disruptions to school and work attendance—resulting in a loss of wages—and enormous mental and emotional stress, as lives have been upended.

Although most neighborhoods affected by the fire are now open to public access for community members, many houses have been entirely destroyed and remaining structures carry enormous measures of chemical and toxic debris, leaving entire communities uninhabitable.

Though the American Red Cross continues to operate several shelters and community distribution sites around the region, it has begun to shift toward long term recovery, and many additional support resources are dwindling. As these resources decrease, there remains a significant need for mental health care, as affected residents scramble to navigate the aftermath.

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 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 vulnerable community members.

FAST FACTS

- The Los Angeles area wildfires are fully contained, but the long-term impact on many community members is far from over. The fires have damaged more than 16,000 homes, schools, community centers and places of worship across Los Angeles, and have left many remaining structures and areas uninhabitable.
- Many of the initial support services and resources have now dwindled, but the physical and emotional needs of residents remain significant.

OUR RESPONSE

- International Medical Corps deployed an emergency response team to the Los Angeles area within 24 hours of the fires' outbreak.
- 49 medical and mental health professionals have been deployed to deliver around-the-clock direct medical and mental health services to residents within two regional shelters, as well as in communities centers and at distribution sites.
- The mental health team has developed tailored [mental health resources](#) to distribute to families and individuals affected by the fires, with referrals to free 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;
 - 4,256 hygiene kits, 4,176 wound-care kits and 10,254 face masks; and
 - communication equipment for internet service 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.

Over the course of the response, International Medical Corps has deployed 49 medical and mental health professionals—many of whom are California and Los Angeles locals—to provide critical medical and mental health care in shelters, distribution centers and re-entry points.

Our medical teams are now providing 24/7 medical care in the Red Cross-managed shelters at the Pasadena Convention Center and the Westwood Recreation Center, providing a comforting and stable presence for residents amid significant change. Since January 20, the team has conducted 497 consultations and assessments, and provided 316 residents with primary nursing care with medication administration. The Red Cross and other response organizations are beginning to transition into long-term recovery, including placing shelter residents in more sustainable housing situations. However, the Pasadena Convention Center still hosts more than 300 people, while Westwood Recreation Center still has nearly 100 residents. Preparations for the housing transition have caused significant anxiety among residents, as many still do not have a plan and have continued to need many support resources. In addition to providing 24/7 care at the shelters, International Medical Corps has stationed a medical mobile unit at a distribution site in Santa Monica, providing available mental health and medical care to residents who come to receive water and other supplies.

The mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) team continues to provide community-based services to affected residents, and have been strategically stationed in a variety of locations and sites, including distribution sites, community hubs, and the Pasadena Convention Center and Westwood Recreation Center shelters. At mobile community locations, our mental health teams are engaging residents and first responders, listening to their stories and distributing [free mental health resources](#). These resources have been widely shared and utilized by other entities and organizations, including Cal Fire. Since January 17, our teams—which provide mental health services in both English and Spanish—have conducted 851 consultations and reached more than 2,224 people through outreach. At the shelters, the MHPSS team is working in tandem with our medical teams to provide critical emotional and mental support to residents. Additionally, both medical and mental health teams are working to care for residents in very close collaboration with the Red Cross, FEMA, the Los Angeles Department of Mental Health and the Los Angeles Department of Public Health.



An International Medical Corps doctor conducts a medical consultation in the Red Cross-managed Westwood Convention Center shelter, which houses 100 people each night.



Members of the International Medical Corps team join several Red Cross nurses and a public health nurse in the Westwood Recreation Center, as they work to provide critical medical and emotional support to residents.

International Medical Corps has also distributed urgently needed relief and response supplies to 13 different sites and partners, including shelters, federally qualified health centers (which provide medical services to low-income and other vulnerable populations), community-based organizations, local nonprofits and government entities. Across the entire response, the team has delivered more than 21,000 hygiene items, 1,283 medical supplies, 784 air-quality items, 10,254 KN95 or N95 face masks, and 4,176 first-aid and wound-care kits, among other supplies. We have also provided critical communication equipment and internet connectivity to shelters to support internet connections for residents, staff and first responders as they contact FEMA, work, landlords and more.

As the response shifts to recovery, International Medical Corps is directly supporting health centers and local organizations that provide accessible healthcare and health-related services to the most vulnerable communities affected by the fires. This includes support for frontline healthcare staff, so they are able to return to work—for example, International Medical Corps has already provided housing allowances to a local health center network to support 15 frontline healthcare workers who lost their homes in the

fire. We are working to make similar resources available to additional partners, as well as working to provide funds to offset patient copays and prescriptions refills, providing urgently needed financial resources to families most affected, and ensuring continuity of care for affected community members.

International Medical Corps is committed to staying and serving affected Los Angeles residents to support long-term recovery, and continues to expand its response and recovery efforts.

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

13 sites supported	49 medical and MHPSS professionals deployed
4,256 hygiene kits distributed	1,280 first-aid kits distributed
17,048 hygiene products distributed	10,254 masks distributed
7,283 medical supplies distributed	2,896 wound-care kits distributed
827 other relief & recovery supplies distributed	784 Air purifiers and air-quality items distributed
851 MHPSS consultations	2,224 participants in MHPSS outreach
497 medical consultations	316 patients given primary nursing care
19,739 direct beneficiaries	83,702 indirect beneficiaries