



*An International Medical Corps doctor and nurse conduct a medical consultation for a community member in our medical mobile unit at a distribution point in Altadena.*

The wildfires have stopped burning in Los Angeles, but the devastating destruction caused by the Palisades and Eaton fires, as well as other fires, remains an ongoing crisis. Many community members across the Pacific Palisades and Altadena areas have completely lost generational homes, community institutions, schools and businesses. More than one month later, many affected residents are still without housing, with few options for long-term solutions. For many, the disaster has passed, but for the communities that have been affected, the crisis is still very real.

The Red Cross and other community-based organizations have continued to host distribution points at grocery store parking lots, recreation centers and post offices, enabling affected residents to receive essential supplies such as drinking water (many water systems have been heavily damaged and remain offline), diapers, wipes and other items.

Many affected residents are at a loss for what steps to take—including filing appropriate claims, making official appointments and understanding regulations and guidelines—as they try to regain a sense of stability. The availability of many initial resources has continued to decrease even as the need continues, leaving a heavy and lingering emotional and mental toll among affected communities amid protracted uncertainty.

## **International Medical Corps' Response**

Headquartered in Los Angeles, International Medical Corps deployed an Emergency Response Team within 24 hours of the fires' outbreak on January 7. 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

### **FAST FACTS**

- The Los Angeles area wildfires have ended, 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.
- Though many of the initial support services and resources have dwindled, 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.
- 50 medical and mental health professionals have been deployed to deliver direct medical and mental health services to residents within two regional shelters, as well as in communities centers and at distribution sites.
- Teams have conducted 590 medical consultations, provided 384 residents with primary nursing care; have conducted 1,035 MHPSS consultations and reached 2,856 people with MHPSS-related outreach.
- 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.
- We have 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.

and the Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County—to identify and meet the needs of vulnerable community members.

Over the course of our response, International Medical Corps has deployed 50 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.

### Shelter Services

Our medical teams are now providing medical care coverage from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. daily in Red Cross-managed shelters at the Pasadena Convention Center (housing people displaced by the Eaton Fire) and the Westwood Recreation Center (housing those displaced by the Palisades Fire). Since January 20, the team has conducted 590 consultations and assessments, and has provided 384 residents with primary nursing care with medication administration. As the Red Cross, FEMA and other organizations work to place residents in longer-term housing alternatives, the Pasadena center now houses 184 people, while the Westwood center houses 49. Most shelter residents in the Pasadena Convention Center are renters or previous homeowners, with limited resources for temporary housing—and there is significant difficulty in placing these individuals and families. As initial emergency resources such as housing vouchers decrease, shelter populations are anticipated to increase, potentially perpetuating the need for shelter care. As the Red Cross explores new locations to house displaced residents, International Medical Corps' medical team remains committed to providing excellent and compassionate care.

The mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) team continues to provide critical community-based services to affected residents at both the Pasadena and Westwood centers, as well as at distribution sites and community hubs in the Altadena area. Since January 17, our teams—which provide mental health services in both English and Spanish—have conducted 1,035 consultations and reached more than 2,856 people through community-based outreach services. Many community members at these sites have experienced significant trauma in the last month, but have not had the ability to process it. At these sites, our licensed mental health clinicians approach vehicles, families and individuals to conduct psychological first aid and coach people through coping mechanisms. For many people, this is the first time since the fires that they have been able to process the changes in this way. Community members and partner organizations have expressed appreciation for the enormous value that the International Medical Corps mental health team has provided with their action and expertise, and other organizations have begun to follow our model of engagement.

### Community-Based Outreach

International Medical Corps also continues to coordinate closely with local communities and organizations to offer other health and outreach services. On Friday, February 7, International Medical Corps was invited to provide medical and mental health care through our medical mobile unit at an NAACP resource fair in Pasadena for families and individuals affected by the fires. Community members were invited to ask questions and hear from organizations like FEMA, the Housing Rights Center, the Red Cross, the Army Corps of Engineers and the National Housing Project—organizations that can help people navigate how to recover and rebuild their homes and livelihoods. As the sole medical and mental health provider present, we were able to have meaningful engagements over the course of the evening, reaching nearly 70 people, as well as distribute critical supplies to attendees. In addition to the NAACP event, we continue to deploy the medical mobile unit to distribution points in Altadena, providing both medical and mental health care, and meeting community members where they are.

International Medical Corps has distributed urgently needed relief and response supplies to 15 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. During our response, we have delivered more than 39,000 hygiene items, 1,283 medical supplies, 194 air-quality items, 35,854 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



*The International Medical Corps Mental Health Team, working in collaboration with the Red Cross team at Pasadena Post Office, takes a break to pose for a photo.*



*A shelter resident at the Westwood Recreation Center hugs an International Medical Corps volunteer nurse.*

contact FEMA, work, landlords and more. We are continuing to distribute additional supplies in bulk to health centers and local nonprofit organizations to support ongoing recovery efforts.

### Community Clinic Support

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. We continue to expand our response and recovery efforts as requested.

### 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 more than 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

<b>15</b> sites supported	<b>50</b> medical and MHPSS professionals deployed
<b>5,856</b> hygiene kits distributed	<b>1,280</b> first-aid kits distributed
<b>39,002</b> hygiene products distributed	<b>35,854</b> masks distributed
<b>7,923</b> medical supplies distributed	<b>2,896</b> wound-care kits distributed
<b>737</b> other relief & recovery supplies distributed	<b>194</b> air purifiers and air-quality items distributed
<b>1,035</b> MHPSS consultations	<b>2,856</b> participants in MHPSS outreach
<b>590</b> medical consultations	<b>384</b> patients given primary nursing care
<b>19,739</b> direct beneficiaries	<b>83,702</b> indirect beneficiaries