



*An International Medical Corps nurse provides hygiene items and diapers to a community member at a resource fair.*

From January 7–31, a series of devastating wildfires raged across the Los Angeles region, destroying more than 16,000 homes, businesses and community centers, and displacing more than 200,000 people. The recovery process is ongoing, as efforts continue to rebuild the hard-hit areas of Pacific Palisades, Altadena and Malibu. However, the challenges are many and these communities' need for care persists.

While reconstruction efforts are underway, residents face significant hurdles, including ongoing debris removal; environmental safety concerns of lead, asbestos and other toxic contaminants; and complex permitting processes. These delays and the slow process have prolonged housing instability for many, compounding the challenges of substantial financial losses, disrupted workplaces and schools, and increased mental and emotional stress.

The impact is particularly severe for children, low-income families, older people, people experiencing homelessness and essential workers—groups that are especially vulnerable. Service providers in areas such as Skid Row, as well as in South and West Los Angeles, report a surge in demand for support as displaced individuals seek critical resources. The need for mental health services has also escalated significantly.

Community health centers and local organizations across Los Angeles have expanded and heightened their operations to meet the growing demand and are actively conducting outreach to ensure vulnerable populations receive essential care. However, many of these organizations face their own

## FAST FACTS

- Recovery is still ongoing after the January wildfires that burned through more than 16,000 structures across Los Angeles and that displaced entire communities.
- There continues to be a high need for temporary shelter and long-term housing support, and a significant demand for mental health care, as affected community members continue to process the magnitude of the loss and change.
- Many health centers and local organizations are operating at capacity as they continue regular activities and work to meet heightened needs after the fires.

## OUR RESPONSE

- Moving into recovery, International Medical Corps is partnering with five local FQHCs and local organizations to expand their response capacity by providing direct cash assistance to address housing needs for affected staff and clients, supporting additional outreach efforts and distributing medical and non-medical recovery supplies, including air purifiers, nebulizers and hygiene kits. In the coming months, we will also train staff from 30 health clinics and local organizations to strengthen their emergency response capacity.
- From January 17 to February 16, International Medical Corps provided direct medical and mental health services in two regional shelters and various community centers and distribution sites. Teams conducted 872 medical consultations and provided 632 residents with primary nursing care, conducted 1,261 mental health consultations and provided 3,145 people with mental health outreach services and [resources](#).
- We have so far distributed more than 42,000 response, recovery and medical items, 6,000 hygiene kits, 5,403 first-aid and wound-care kits and 22,800 face masks, as well as equipment for internet connectivity.
- 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 to support ongoing recovery efforts.

challenges from the fires, including facility damage, depleted supplies and stock, and dozens of staff who themselves have been displaced by the fires.

## International Medical Corps' Response

When the Palisades fire broke out on January 7, International Medical Corps immediately deployed an Emergency Response Team; working closely with national, state, county and local responders—including the American Red Cross, the California Department of Public Health, the California Primary Care Association and the Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County—to meet the needs of vulnerable community members. We continue to partner with them to provide long-term recovery services.

From January 17 to February 16, International Medical Corps deployed a total of 58 medical and mental health professionals—many of whom are California and Los Angeles locals—to provide critical medical and mental health care in shelters, and community distribution centers, events and re-entry points. In collaboration with the Red Cross, International Medical Corps provided around-the-clock medical and mental health care to residents impacted by both the Palisades and Eaton fires—in the Westwood Recreation Center shelter and the Pasadena Convention Center shelter, respectively. We also managed the isolation unit in the Pasadena shelter. With the onset of the Hughes fire, we quickly deployed our medical teams to provide care within the College of the Canyons shelter. Over the course of this direct response, International Medical Corps conducted 872 medical consultations and provided 632 residents with primary nursing care, conducted 1,261 mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) consultations and provided 3,145 people with mental health outreach services.

We also partnered with 16 different organizations and health sites to provide urgently needed medical and non-medical supplies, helping to support their response to the community. The supplies we donated during this period included more than 40,000 recovery and medical items, 35,600 KN95 and N95 face masks, 244 air-quality items (including nebulizer compressors and air purifiers), and 4,903 wound-care kits, among other items.

### Recovery: Moving Forward

International Medical Corps is committed to the long-term and sustainable recovery of Los Angeles communities. In response to the increased healthcare needs caused by the wildfires, we are working to address critical service gaps and provide surge capacity to local partners, including AltaMed, Venice Family Clinics, Pacific Clinics and the Sidewalk Project. To date, we've partnered with five health community clinic and nonprofit organization partners to:

- distribute \$400,000 in direct cash assistance to support rental costs and essential household items for staff and clients;
- expand outreach and mental health service capacity to meet the increased needs of affected communities;
- support service providers assisting people experiencing homelessness, by delivering critical supplies such as air purifiers, nebulizers, hygiene kits, pharmaceuticals and critical wound-care supplies, among other items; and
- deliver emergency management training to partners to strengthen their preparedness and response to future crises.

International Medical Corps is working closely with local health providers and organizations located throughout both the Eaton Fire- and Palisades Fire-affected communities of Altadena, Pasadena and West Los Angeles. Local partners have reported dozens of staff and patients who have lost their homes and face significant financial challenges. In response, International Medical Corps has provided funding to three community health clinic networks to offer direct cash assistance for rent and essential household items—such as mattresses and linens—to staff and patients in need. To date, the cash assistance provided has supported more than 15 households, with the aim of reaching an additional 100 households of both staff and clients.

Additionally, International Medical Corps is covering overtime costs for nurses and clinic staff at one community health center, enabling them to conduct critical outreach and follow-up with patients who resided in fire-affected areas. Many of these patients lack sufficient resources to maintain routine health habits or access care—and, with the displacement from the fires, are at greater risk of increased or exacerbated health conditions.

To help meet the rising needs among unhoused populations in Skid Row, MacArthur Park, and South and West Los Angeles, International Medical Corps has partnered with a local service provider in Skid Row to bolster response capacity. This has included the delivery of 98 air purifiers, 74 nebulizers, 500 wound-care kits and 144 hygiene kits. In collaboration with our partner, we have also identified and begun procuring additional critical supplies, including pharmaceuticals and wound-care items.



*Critical recovery supplies, including air purifiers, nebulizers, hygiene kits and wound-care supplies, are delivered to a local partner in Skid Row to support their increased outreach efforts.*

Finally, at the request of local partners, International Medical Corps is expanding its emergency-management training programs to provide staff from some 30 partner organizations—including federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), other health centers and local organizations—with practical tools, equipment and technical assistance for all facets and phases of emergency management. Adapted from our existing suite of training curriculums, these programs will help health centers and organizations better prepare for and respond to future disasters. Topics will include business-continuity planning, psychological first aid, hazard vulnerability assessments, severe weather preparation and mitigation, infectious-disease preparedness and more. We are also collaborating with regional partners, including the Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County and the California Primary Care Association (CPCA), to support similar county- and state-wide capacity strengthening efforts, ensuring both the reach and sustainability of these activities, including facilitating a session in the CPCA's annual Emergency Preparedness Symposium in June. International Medical Corps continues to collaborate closely with local partners to meet the evolving needs in this recovery process.

## 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, we have 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. We have collaborated since 2020 with the LA County Department of Public Health Services, LA Homeless Services Authority and local partner organizations.

### Response to LA Wildfires

<b>22</b> sites supported	<b>58</b> medical and MHPSS professionals deployed
<b>6,000</b> hygiene kits distributed	<b>1,280</b> first-aid kits distributed
<b>39,049</b> hygiene products distributed	<b>22,800</b> masks distributed
<b>1,583</b> medical supplies distributed	<b>4,123</b> wound-care kits distributed
<b>1,196</b> other relief & recovery supplies distributed	<b>416</b> air purifiers and air-quality items distributed
<b>1,261</b> MHPSS consultations	<b>3,145</b> participants in MHPSS outreach
<b>872</b> medical consultations	<b>632</b> patients given over-the-counter care
<b>66,006</b> direct beneficiaries	<b>141,038</b> indirect beneficiaries