

Emergency Response & Preparedness

Because disaster can strike anywhere, anytime, the ability to respond even in the remotest areas of the world is essential for effective emergency response.

And with the acute phase of disaster response—the brief window when the most lives can be saved—measured in just hours, deployment speed is critical. Preparedness is key to achieving this speed.

With a large roster of volunteer healthcare specialists on call and thousands of well-trained global staff members, International Medical Corps has deployed to emergencies in more than 80 countries on six continents since we first began our work in 1984.

As a global public health organization, International Medical Corps can deploy quickly to a sudden-onset disaster or humanitarian crisis. Our teams operate on the frontlines of the world's most urgent humanitarian crises, providing essential lifesaving services to millions affected by conflict and disaster. Moreover, we constantly strengthen our emergency response capacity through preparedness measures, including pre-positioning medical equipment and supplies regionally, and by developing emergency response strategies for each country where we work.



More than 40 years in 80+ countries

Our experience in emergency
response and preparedness



The first 72 hours

The acute phase of disaster
response



24 hours a day, seven days a week

Our early-warning system
immediately detects and
recognizes emergencies



\$4.4 billion in lifesaving healthcare

Millions of lives saved

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TEAMS

The World Health Organization has classified us as an EMT Type 1 provider—acknowledging our capacity to deploy and rapidly provide fixed and mobile medical services in response to disaster anywhere in the world.

With this classification, we join an elite group of first responders. We are the only NGO in the world to offer both Fixed and Mobile EMT Type 1 capabilities. We also are the first NGO in the US to offer Fixed EMT Type 1 capability and only the second NGO in the US to offer Mobile EMT Type 1 capability.

Visit InternationalMedicalCorps.org/EMT to find out more.





International Medical Corps quickly responded when:



Conflict in Sudan displaced 4.6 million people and left 24.7 million people in need of humanitarian assistance.



Storm Daniel led to the collapse of two dams in Libya, causing catastrophic flooding and thousands of fatalities.



The conflict in Gaza led to immense suffering among the civilian population.



A series of wildfires raged across the Los Angeles region, destroying homes and displacing more than 200,000 people.



A huge earthquake struck Myanmar in March 2025, resulting in thousands of deaths and injuries.

Current Emergencies

International Medical Corps staff members work on the frontlines every day, providing treatment and hope to millions affected by humanitarian crisis.

Our teams in Syria and Yemen have braved years of armed violence—yet they continue to deliver vital assistance to innocent people in what are recognized as two of the world's worst humanitarian catastrophes.

After the escalation of conflict in Gaza, where International Medical Corps has been operating since 2008, our team rapidly scaled up health, nutrition, child protection, mental health and psychosocial support, and water, sanitation and hygiene services, along with programs to address violence against women and girls—serving more than 440,000 civilians.

In Africa, we continue to confront and address hunger, disease and displacement across the Sahel region, a broad strip of semi-arid land that touches a dozen countries as it stretches from the Atlantic to the Red Sea. Chronic poverty, armed conflict and the alarming impact of extreme weather all make the Sahel a major humanitarian challenge—both for today and for the future.

And since the Russian invasion in 2022, we have expanded our relief efforts in Ukraine, providing medical, mental health and protection services to millions affected by the conflict. According to UN figures, 12.7 million people need humanitarian assistance, and around 8 million are internally displaced.

For the most up-to-date information on our emergency deployments, visit [InternationalMedicalCorps.org/emergencies](https://www.internationalmedicalcorps.org/emergencies).

Past Emergencies

Since 1984, we have responded whenever disaster strikes—no matter how distant or how dangerous. In 2014, when an outbreak of Ebola in West Africa was declared a potential threat to global public health, we were one of the very few international humanitarian relief groups to deploy immediately to confront that threat at its source—in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Our teams have saved millions of lives during myriad emergencies by delivering emergency healthcare and other vital relief. From the start of every deployment, we offer training to those affected by disasters—equipping them with the skills needed to become their own best first responders.

A complete list of our past emergency deployments can be found on our website at [InternationalMedicalCorps.org/emergencies](https://www.internationalmedicalcorps.org/emergencies).



PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Response Management System

Emergency preparedness is a key element of our response strategy. We maintain a response management system that operates around the clock to alert us to emergencies in their early stages. Country missions create and maintain response plans, shaped by local vulnerabilities and staff capacity. Teams evaluate and update these plans with support from our Emergency Response Unit (ERU).

Training and Capacity Building

A crucial aspect of our strategy—and part of our localization efforts—involves training local partners and healthcare workers to foster self-reliance in disaster-prone areas.

In 2022, our ERU launched a trauma-and-disaster training initiative featuring proprietary and off-the-shelf training courses. Through this initiative, the ERU has built mission-ready packages and a robust global instructor roster to deploy these courses in response to anticipated conflict escalation, or to prepare for or respond to emergencies. Our ERU offers these courses before and during ongoing emergencies, emphasizing capacity building and quality. We also include a robust instructor-training component, which enables teams to cascade training to others, even once we've left the country.

Our training offerings position International Medical Corps to provide technical guidance and develop course content for disaster and emergency medicine actors. These initiatives are reinforced by strategic partnerships with ministries of health.

Academic Collaborations and Local Partnerships

We partner with academic institutions to develop technical training curricula—particularly during public health crises such as Ebola and COVID-19, and to prepare civilians and first responders who may encounter chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or explosive events.

Our work with strong local partners enhances our preparedness and response capabilities. We also help them to preposition supplies for prompt responses during emergencies, minimizing shipping delays.



From 2022 to 2025, we have trained nearly 8,000 participants in 300 standard courses, as well as nearly 1,000 participants in almost 100 train-the-trainer courses. These training initiatives have taken place in 10 countries worldwide.



Tens of thousands of people have used our online courses on how to better coordinate emergency humanitarian assistance.



We have provided dozens of in-person workshops globally to build local and international NGO capacity.



www.InternationalMedicalCorps.org

A pre-eminent first responder since 1984, International Medical Corps delivers emergency medical and related services to those affected by conflict, disaster and disease, no matter where they are, no matter what the conditions. We also train people in their communities, providing them with the skills they need to recover, chart their own path to self-reliance and become effective first responders themselves.

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