



International Medical Corps staff members survey damage from 2024's Hurricane Beryl in Sargent Island, Texas.

On Friday, July 4, catastrophic flash floods swept through the Texas Hill Country, claiming at least 135 lives, including 36 children, with more than 100 people still reported missing.¹ Triggered by the remnants of June's Tropical Storm Barry, the floods caused the Guadalupe River to surge more than 26 feet, leading to extensive infrastructure damage—isolating communities and hindering access to emergency services and shelters. Governor Greg Abbott issued disaster declarations for 26 affected counties,² and President Donald Trump approved a federal major disaster declaration for Kerr County, hardest-hit by the floods. Search efforts continue, but continued heavy rains in the affected areas over the past week have disrupted efforts.³

Vulnerable populations—including the elderly, children, those with chronic conditions, non-English speakers and low-income families in the region—have been particularly impacted by the event. The affected region includes more than 27,000 Medicare and 538,000 Medicaid clients, many reliant on electricity-dependent medical equipment.⁴ Health concerns continue to be significant, with the immediate risk of waterborne and vector-borne illnesses, mental health issues and increased challenges accessing healthcare. The flooding's health implications are expected to persist as recovery efforts continue.

As of Wednesday, July 16, 11 American Red Cross shelters remained open, with nearly 300 occupants, while feeding operations and one family reunification center are still operational across Concho, Kerr, San Saba and Tom Green Counties.⁵

Though the flooding triggered the evacuation and relocation of several long-term facilities, hospitals and other health facilities in the area remain operational and several local healthcare providers have deployed mobile clinics to provide care for affected populations.⁶ However, local and regional health-center partners report significant concerns about their ability to meet increased mental health needs—both for first responders and for community members, particularly youth,

FAST FACTS

- Early on July 4, catastrophic flooding struck Central Texas, killing at least 135 people, including dozens of children. Search efforts continue, with at least 100 people still reported missing.
- Mental health needs as a result of the crisis are anticipated to be significant.
- Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued disaster declarations for 26 affected counties, and President Donald Trump signed a major disaster declaration for Kerr County.

OUR RESPONSE

- International Medical Corps is partnering with the Texas Association of Community Health Centers, which has requested our assistance and is identifying patient and health facility-specific needs in affected areas.
- International Medical Corps is working with our local partner health facilities to determine how to support surge physical and mental health capacity to meet heightened needs and ensure that they have the adequate tools and resources for mid- to long-term recovery.
- International Medical Corps is procuring and delivering urgently needed supplies to affected health centers as needs are shared, helping them to remain open and ensuring that patients can continue to receive essential care.
- Our assistance will include such items as hygiene and wound-care kits; vaccinations, medications and medical supplies; batteries, nebulizers and monitors for at-home medical equipment; personal protective equipment and other infectious disease supplies; communication and connectivity devices; tarps; and portable showers, bathroom facilities and washing machines, based on specific needs.

¹ <https://abcnews.go.com/US/live-updates/texas-flooding-live-updates/?id=123729682>

² <https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-announces-5-counties-added-to-state-disaster-declaration-following-texas-flooding>

³ <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/heavy-rains-return-texas-10-days-catastrophic-flooding-rcna218605>

⁴ <https://39932089.hs-sites.com/txflood-sitrep1>

⁵ <https://disastercenter.com/FEMA%20Daily%20Operation%20Brief.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.kens5.com/article/news/state/texas-news/texas-flood/texas-hill-country-kerr-county-kerrville-deadly-floods-july-4-first-responders-texas-emergency-medical-task-force/273-f929043d-4bdb-412f-b4e9-b1c6665c2e43>

as they process the sudden and overwhelming loss around them. Without adequate and timely mental health support, previous disasters have demonstrated that affected communities experience heightened risk of trauma and a drawn-out recovery.⁷ As hurricane season progresses, there are also growing concerns that additional flooding or compounded severe weather events could occur and severely disrupt recovery efforts—exacerbating the already-devastating physical and emotional toll on affected communities.

International Medical Corps' Response

International Medical Corps is partnering with the Texas Association of Community Health Centers (TACHC), which has requested support for its member health networks. In collaboration with TACHC, we are collecting requests to support specific facility needs and to ensure that affected communities have access to ongoing health and mental health services. International Medical Corps is partnering with other response organizations to collectively meet urgent needs.

As search efforts continue and the community shifts toward mid-term recovery, with a close eye on the current hurricane season, International Medical Corps is working to fill gaps and strengthen local community and health facility resilience. We are working with partner health facilities to determine how to best support surge physical and mental health capacity to meet heightened needs, both in the immediate and long-term. Anticipated interventions include funding for patient copays, surge staffing for community health workers and outreach services, and additional mental health programming.

Additionally, we are coordinating with health facilities to rapidly support additional preparedness efforts, in anticipation of other events this hurricane season. International Medical Corps is preparing to procure and deliver essential supplies to health facility partners and the families they serve, including such items as hygiene and wound-care kits, medications, vaccines, medical equipment, diapers, mobility aids, portable power sources, insulin coolers and other critical relief items, based on evolving needs.

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 2024 alone, International Medical Corps responded to six hurricanes across Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas. In early 2025, we launched a month-long, comprehensive response to the Los Angeles wildfires.

In Texas, International Medical Corps has continued to support Hurricane Beryl response and recovery efforts in the Houston area while partnering with local health facilities to build and support efforts around measles prevention and response, and other emergency preparedness. In close partnership with TACHC, International Medical Corps has conducted training and is working to strengthen emergency preparedness capacity across local health facilities.

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. Over the last two years alone, we've responded to 11 emergencies across 10 states and territories, and trained 630 health workers from 47 organizations. We support local entities not only during disaster response but also in non-emergency times through training that strengthens healthcare systems and enhances preparedness.

⁷ https://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Emotional_Well-Being_Disaster_PrepWise.pdf