



*The floods and landslides affected the states of Apure, Barinas, Mérida, Portuguesa, Tachira, Trujillo and Zulia.*

Since June 24, 2025, Tropical Wave 9 has pummeled southwestern Venezuela, triggering destructive flash floods and landslides across the Andean, Central-Western, Llanos and Zulian regions. The Venezuelan government reports that the extreme weather event has caused two casualties, affected more than 10,000 families, damaged thousands of homes and other properties, and disrupted livelihoods and basic utilities across the region. The rainfall has wreaked havoc in eight states: Apure, Barinas, Mérida, Portuguesa, Tachira, Trujillo and Zulia, all of which need urgent humanitarian aid, and will need to repair and reestablish normal functioning of their roads, power supply, water provision and telecommunications in the wake of the floods.

Immediate humanitarian needs among the flood-affected populations are complex and far-reaching. Access to lifesaving healthcare is limited, especially in areas already struggling with insufficiently trained medical staff and a shortage of essential medical commodities. Flooding has also drastically limited access to safe water, especially in areas where extreme rainfall has damaged water supply infrastructure and polluted natural, clean water streams. Damage to buildings limits access to safe and secure shelter, while damaged roads complicate the distribution of basic provisions. Many are at risk of heightened health issues related to respiratory infections, trauma, wound infections and waterborne diseases, including cholera.

In Mérida state, whose population is among the most devastated, the severe weather event has damaged 25 bridges, 16 of which were completely destroyed, and massive road destruction has left 90% of the affected population—more than 8,450 families—isolated without access to medical care and with limited access to food, shelter, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services. Many have taken shelter in temporary housing, though the exact displacement numbers are still unclear. Meanwhile, Mérida state has received the least humanitarian aid in response to the disaster because of landslides and road collapses. However, the government is establishing alternate routes to reach the affected communities.

## FAST FACTS

- Tropical Wave 9 hit western Venezuela on June 24, triggering landslides and floods that destroyed main access roads and 25 bridges across eight states, and isolating more than 8,450 families in Mérida state alone.
- Venezuela is experiencing a major humanitarian crisis, with more than 7.9 million people urgently needing humanitarian assistance.

## OUR FOOTPRINT

- International Medical Corps has been operational in Venezuela since 2019, reaching more than 3.7 million people in Apure, Bolívar, Delta Amacuro, Distrito Capital, Falcón, La Guaira, Miranda, Sucre and Zulia states.
- We support communities by providing equipment, medicines and medical supplies to strengthen healthcare systems. We also implement food distribution, nutrition, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions.

## OUR RESPONSE

- Our teams are working to increase access to medical care by deploying mobile medical units (MMUs) to deliver first-line clinical care, including for injuries, common illnesses, waterborne diseases and maternal and newborn care.
- We are providing access to safe drinking water by distributing water treatment emergency supplies, while also reducing health risks through community health education on waterborne disease prevention and by providing basic hygiene supplies.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is coordinating emergency relief efforts with local actors and international humanitarian organizations. This coalition has conducted assessments in some of the disaster-affected areas and begun a multi-sectoral response—focused on health, protection, shelter and WASH—in Apure and Zulia states. The Venezuelan government has also deployed disaster response agencies to support the affected population and mobilized national military forces to assist with reconstruction efforts.

## International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps is implementing a targeted emergency relief response to address the affected population's humanitarian needs. Our mission staff in Venezuela has begun a rapid-needs assessment so that we can effectively and efficiently leverage our expertise, supplies and workforce to provide essential services.

### Emergency Health Response

International Medical Corps is preparing to deploy mobile medical units (MMUs) staffed with multidisciplinary teams—general practitioners, pediatricians, gynecologists, nurses and pharmacy assistants—to reduce disease burden and mortality by providing primary healthcare services, maternal and newborn care, neonatal care, mass deworming campaigns and access to essential medications, particularly for people with pre-existing noncommunicable diseases. The MMUs will be equipped with essential medicines, supplies and equipment to manage conditions frequently associated with flood emergencies, including diarrhea, parasitic infections, respiratory illnesses, skin infections, injuries, wound-related complications, vector-borne diseases such as dengue and malaria and waterborne diseases.



*An International Medical Corps staff member provides child health services during a 2023 MMU deployment in Bolivar state.*

Preparations are underway to establish care stations staffed by healthcare personnel (nurses or paramedics) in safe locations such as health centers, community spaces and shelters, where we and our partners will distribute wound care kits and provide immediate care and referrals to health centers.

Our team will begin distributing individual and family wound-care kits containing sterile gauze, bandages, antiseptics, gloves, scissors, dressings and other essential supplies for basic wound management. During the distribution process, hired personnel will conduct informative sessions with community members on proper wound-care techniques, including effective cleaning, protection methods, and recognition of signs of infection. These sessions will also cover best practices in personal and environmental hygiene to minimize the risk of infection and the spread of disease.

To promote early medical care, our trained staff will provide community members with information on the importance of promptly seeking medical attention when experiencing symptoms such as fever, persistent diarrhea, infected wounds or other signs of potentially communicable illnesses and other serious health complications. Our informative sessions will also provide vital information on signs, treatment and prevention of common diseases in flood contexts such as dengue, leptospirosis and other zoonoses. Our staff is also preparing to conduct training sessions with local health personnel on injury and hypothermia management, WASH, diarrheal disease prevention, practical injury care and disease reporting protocols.

### Emergency WASH Services

International Medical Corps is prepared to provide lifesaving WASH interventions that address specific regional challenges, including the mountainous terrain, supply chain disruptions and infrastructure limitations. Our teams are preparing to:

- provide safe drinking water through emergency supplies (bottled water, water purification tablets and mobile water treatment units);
- distribute water storage containers to households;
- distribute hygiene kits (soap, menstrual hygiene products, handwashing containers); and
- conduct community awareness campaigns on handwashing, safe water storage and waterborne disease prevention.

These interventions provide essential support for flood-affected communities by ensuring access to safe drinking water, promoting hygiene to prevent disease and addressing the specific health and dignity needs of women and girls while helping stabilize households and reduce public health risks.