

Lebanon

Lebanon continues to host the highest number of per capita refugees globally. Years of war in Syria have driven a sustained refugee influx that continues to strain Lebanon's fragile systems, compounded by deepening economic collapse, political paralysis and deteriorating public infrastructure.

In 2024, intensified cross-border hostilities along the southern border triggered new waves of

displacement, caused damage and destruction of critical infrastructure, and further disrupted access to essential health and protection services.

International Medical Corps has provided healthcare and protection services in Lebanon since 2006. In response to the Syria crisis, we expanded our programs in 2011 to meet the urgent needs of displaced populations and host communities. Today, we operate across all regions in Lebanon, delivering primary healthcare, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and services to prevent violence against women and girls (VAWG). During the 2024 cross-border conflict, we reinforced our emergency response by deploying mobile medical units (MMUs) and expanding MHPSS for displaced communities.

Over the past decade, Lebanon has faced political unrest, economic collapse, the COVID-19 pandemic, the Beirut Port explosion, a cholera outbreak and increasing cross-border tensions—straining the healthcare system and placing immense pressure on the refugee population to access basic services.

International Medical Corps remains a key actor in Lebanon's health and protection landscape, delivering integrated services in primary healthcare, MHPSS and VAWG-related services across regions, including Akkar, Bekaa, Beirut, Mount Lebanon, Tripoli and underserved areas in the north and south.

As hostilities escalated in 2024, International Medical Corps rapidly mobilized emergency teams in the south and other affected areas. We deployed MMUs, scaled up MHPSS and protection services, and distributed essential supplies to displaced families in coordination with local actors. While supporting frontline areas, we maintained uninterrupted delivery of care in safer regions.



MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

As a long-standing partner of the National Mental Health Program, International Medical Corps has played a pivotal role in improving access to quality community-based mental health care across Lebanon.

Our MHPSS program delivers mental health case management and consultations at PHCCs through roving mental health professionals and via dedicated community hubs. Our multidisciplinary MHPSS team comprises mental health case managers, psychologists and psychiatrists who offer consultations, psychotropic management and consistent follow-up care. In addition, we strengthen primary healthcare capacities to deliver MHPSS services, ensuring that mental health is fully integrated into the broader health system.

Beyond individual care, we are committed to reducing the stigma associated with mental health. We do this by providing group support, focus group discussions and public campaigns that enable communities to take ownership of their mental well-being, and by promoting the long-term sustainability of mental health support beyond project cycles.

In response to the 2024 conflict, the MHPSS team rapidly deployed mental health professionals to displacement sites and temporary shelters to provide psychological first aid, early intervention and group support. We expanded our services to support both affected people and frontline workers exposed to prolonged stress.



PRIMARY HEALTHCARE

International Medical Corps ensures access to quality healthcare for Syrian refugees, migrants, persons with disabilities (PwDs), older people and vulnerable Lebanese by supporting a network of more than 50 primary healthcare centers (PHCCs) and dispensaries nationwide. Through these facilities, we support consultations, immunizations, reproductive health, communicable- and noncommunicable-disease management, malnutrition screening and home-based care for older people and PwDs. Our services emphasize prevention, continuity of care and inclusion.

We strengthen Lebanon's national healthcare system, working in partnership with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and local organizations. Our support includes the delivery of essential medications, medical supplies and equipment aligned with MoPH guidelines, performance-based financing to enhance service quality, and continuous capacity-building through structured training sessions, mentorship and supervision to help facilities meet national standards and accreditation requirements.

Community engagement is central to our approach. We train and mobilize community health workers, who conduct outreach sessions, awareness campaigns and referrals in homes, schools, informal settlements and remote communities. Their efforts help reduce the spread of diseases, encourage people to seek care early on and improve overall health outcomes.



During the 2024 conflict, International Medical Corps rapidly adapted our PHCC programming. We deployed MMUs and reinforced PHCCs in areas affected by displacement, ensuring continuity of outpatient care for conflict-affected communities. We also scaled up health promotion and hygiene-awareness activities, as well as the distribution of dignity and hygiene kits, in close coordination with local partners and municipal actors.



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

International Medical Corps supports survivors of VAWG and at-risk women and girls through safe, confidential and survivor-centered services. Our trained case managers and psychosocial support workers provide tailored individual and group psychosocial activities across our women's and girls' safe spaces, MMUs and partner-run centers.

In addition to treatment, prevention is a key component of our strategy. We engage women, girls, men and boys in community discussions around gender equality, challenge harmful social norms and train service providers to improve identification, and safe and ethical referral, of VAWG cases. Coordination

with women-led organizations and other local partners ensures that our programming is inclusive, culturally relevant and sustainable.

The 2024 conflict heightened protection risks. International Medical Corps responded by scaling up VAWG-related services and focusing on mobile interventions in the south and other high-risk areas—ensuring that women and girls in displacement settings had access to safe spaces, psychosocial support and case management. During and after the conflict, we distributed dignity kits comprising essential hygiene and menstrual items, along with other items designed to help women and girls feel safe and supported in their environment.



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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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