

Venezuela



Venezuela has experienced the second-largest international displacement worldwide, with nearly 8 million Venezuelans having left their country in search of safety, work, food, healthcare and other basic needs.

Inside the country, 71 million people struggle with limited access to medical care. Hyperinflation and political instability have created a difficult humanitarian environment that has left many working Venezuelans struggling in poverty. Across the country, Venezuelans face difficulty accessing healthcare, safe water, education and food. Women, children and indigenous communities are especially vulnerable to health risks.

International Medical Corps has worked in Venezuela since 2019. Our teams deliver health, nutrition, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), food security and livelihoods, child protection, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programs.

To date, we have reached more than 3.7 million people in 10 states, supported more than 120 health centers, and distributed medications, medical supplies and equipment valued at nearly \$2 million. In Bolívar state, we provide health facilities and their staff with pharmaceuticals, supplies and equipment, as well as training and mentorship adapted to local needs. In Delta Amacuro state, International Medical Corps distributes environmental management and household kits to indigenous and non-indigenous communities in isolated areas—some accessible only by boat—to help control and prevent vector-borne diseases, such as dengue and malaria.



HEALTH

Venezuela's protracted humanitarian crisis has rendered the public health system network inoperative. Infrastructure is damaged, referral systems are fractured and community knowledge of how to prevent disease is lacking. Health facilities have inadequate medicines, supplies, equipment and skilled professionals. Venezuelans have insufficient access to primary healthcare and specialized medical assistance, with more than 7.1 million lacking access to health services.

In Bolívar and Delta Amacuro states, International Medical Corps delivers primary healthcare to remote communities through fixed and mobile medical units. We train local community health workers to increase access to preventive and curative health and nutrition services. We provide medical consultations, support immunization programs, and conduct capacity-building activities for health staff and awareness sessions for community members. We also improve access to maternal and newborn health services in indigenous communities by deploying OB-GYNs and pediatricians, providing essential medical supplies to health facilities and raising awareness of the importance of pre- and post-natal care.

Our health and WASH teams also respond to dengue and malaria outbreaks in Venezuela by providing health facilities with services, medicines, health equipment and supplies for treating symptoms caused by these diseases.



NUTRITION

International Medical Corps operates dedicated Mother and Baby Corners (MBC)—an integrated health-nutrition response designed by the Danish Refugee Council and UNICEF—in every health facility we support. The MBCs provide essential information and services to pregnant and lactating women, children under 5 and other groups vulnerable to malnutrition.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

International Medical Corps provides MHPSS services in Bolívar state for adults experiencing emotional stress and psychosocial distress. We also provide community members with key messages through awareness-raising activities as we provide training on the World Health Organization’s Self-Help Plus (SH+), Problem Management Plus (PM+) and mhGAP programs. In addition, we provide psychological first aid and seminars on basic mental health concepts for frontline workers and community members.

CHILD PROTECTION

Mental health difficulties also affect children and teenagers, who often have difficulty accessing basic services like nutrition, safe water and healthcare. International Medical Corps operates child-friendly spaces (CFS) to provide structured psychosocial support programs for children and referral information about additional local health services. Our CFS staff also conducts



educational sessions on healthy behavior, such as preventing sexually transmitted diseases and preventing adolescent pregnancy. For parents and caregivers, our CFS staff provides information on child protection and health practices. The approach we take to community engagement at our CFS is designed to meet adolescent-specific needs faced by families, to facilitate interpersonal community connections and to build trust in International Medical Corps-supported health facilities.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Many water systems in Venezuela are non-functional, with more than 3.6 million in need of clean drinking water. Nationwide, there is a lack of basic WASH services, sanitary control, and infection prevention and control (IPC) protocols. Venezuela also has the second-highest death rate from vector-borne diseases, such as dengue and malaria, which spread in environments with inadequate WASH services. For example, Delta Amacuro—a state whose populace lives along the Orinoco River—has some of the highest rates of dengue and malaria in the country, due to its proximity to slow-moving and stagnant water where mosquitoes thrive. Complicating the

situation further, identifying and treating dengue in Venezuela is especially difficult, since mosquitoes in the country spread all four types of the virus.

International Medical Corps supports local health facilities in remote communities in Bolívar state by rehabilitating existing structures, ensuring that spaces have proper ventilation and illumination. We also help them recover basic services such as water and electricity by installing treatment and power plants. Finally, we support communities in Bolívar and Delta Amacuro states by establishing community-based vector-control committees and providing local institutions with equipment for monitoring breakouts.



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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 or the conditions. We also train people in their communities, equipping them with the skills to recover, achieve self-reliance and become effective first responders themselves.

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