

SITUATION UPDATE



A damaged school in Masvingo province

Since December, Zimbabwe has been experiencing persistent and intense rainfall, with some parts of the country having recorded rainfall totals of 200 to 300mm, triggering widespread flooding across multiple provinces and resulting in 78 reported deaths, 61 injuries, the destruction of almost 1,100 homes and infrastructure damage at 41 school and five healthcare facilities. Manicaland, Mashonaland Central, Masvingo and Matabeleland South provinces have been among the most heavily affected. Critical infrastructure, including health facilities, schools and roads, has been damaged, leaving communities isolated from essential services and vulnerable to waterborne diseases underscoring the urgent need for continued monitoring, rapid interventions in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and targeted support to affected communities. In International Medical Corps' areas of operation, rainfall has caused significant humanitarian and WASH challenges in the Beitbridge, Bikita, Masvingo rural and Mwenezi districts.

At least 10 cases of cholera (nine in Rushinga district, 1 in Mazowe district) and one community death (in Rushinga district) have so far been reported. Cases in Rushinga have been linked to recent travel from Mozambique, raising concerns about cross-border transmission. Provincial rapid response teams are establishing treatment camps, intensifying surveillance, and delivering hygiene education to curb further spread.

International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps has consistently demonstrated its ability to respond rapidly and effectively to health emergencies in Zimbabwe. As a trusted first responder, International Medical Corps works in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC) to strengthen national capacity for outbreak control and emergency preparedness, combining support to the health workforce, rapid deployment of lifesaving commodities, strengthened surveillance, risk communication and community engagement, and active participation in coordination platforms with MoHCC, UN agencies and partners to maximize impact.

International Medical Corps is responding to the recent flooding by implementing targeted interventions in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), restoring access to safe water and sanitation and protecting vulnerable communities from waterborne diseases. At healthcare facilities, we are building new latrines to replace those damaged by the floods, ensuring adequate institutional sanitation for the catchment population. In affected communities, we are

FAST FACTS

- Since December 2025, persistent heavy rainfall has triggered widespread flooding across multiple provinces, resulting in 78 deaths, 61 injuries, destruction of more than 1,068 homes and damage to 41 schools and five healthcare facilities.
- Manicaland, Mashonaland Central, Masvingo and Matabeleland South, are among the hardest-hit, with significant humanitarian challenges in Beitbridge, Bikita, Masvingo Rural and Mwenezi districts.
- At least 10 cholera cases and one death have so far been reported in Mashonaland Central, with links to cross-border transmission from Mozambique. Provincial rapid response teams are intensifying surveillance, establishing treatment camps and delivering hygiene education.

OUR RESPONSE

- International Medical Corps is constructing new latrines at healthcare facilities, rehabilitating damaged water points, conducting water-quality monitoring and disinfection, and building weather-resilient, accessible latrines at schools while distributing hygiene kits.
- In light of reported cases of cholera, International Medical Corps is prepositioning lifesaving supplies—including oral rehydration salts, intravenous fluids and antibiotics—in supported districts, enabling frontline health workers to respond swiftly, reduce spread and ensure timely access to effective treatment.

rehabilitating damaged water points to restore access to clean water, and are conducting water-quality monitoring and disinfection as necessary to ensure safe drinking water. In light of cholera cases already reported across the country, we are strengthening district preparedness by repositioning lifesaving supplies so that frontline health workers respond swiftly to new cases, prevent escalation, and ensure communities have timely access to safe, effective treatment.

International Medical Corps' work in Zimbabwe began during the 2008–2009 cholera epidemic. During the outbreak, International Medical Corps supplied treatment centers, trained health workers, strengthened surveillance and reached thousands of people with lifesaving commodities and hygiene promotion. We also responded to cholera outbreaks between February 2023 and August 2024, and between November 2024 and July 2025, helping to ensure rapid containment and continuity of lifesaving services. In addition, we have responded to needs created by droughts and other outbreaks of infectious disease, including malaria and COVID.