



Members of International Medical Corps' rapid-response team assesses damage in La Guaira.

A state of emergency has been declared by the Venezuelan authorities in the wake of two massive, back-to-back earthquakes in the northern part of the country. The entire region around Caracas, the capital city, experienced widespread damage, including collapsed buildings and damaged infrastructure. At least 589 people have been killed, and thousands of injuries have been reported, though reporting rates currently are very low and do not include critically hit cities such as La Guaira. Modeling estimates put anticipated casualties at at least 10,000, but that figure could be much higher. Search-and-rescue operations are underway and the needs are vast.

The first, 7.2-magnitude quake's epicenter was west of the community of Morón, approximately 168 kilometers west of Caracas, with a depth of 13 kilometers. The second, 7.5-magnitude quake's epicenter was very near the initial quake, 16 kilometers southwest of Morón.

Venezuelan officials have reported the quakes could be felt in several states. Residents in neighboring Colombia are reported to have felt the earthquakes in the capital of Bogotá, where some people were evacuated as a precaution.

Though assessments of the damage are still underway, there is a critical need for health and humanitarian response. Hospitals and major health facilities are reporting demand exceeding capacity by 900%. Many health facilities have either collapsed or been damaged, including a major hospital that has completely collapsed, severely limiting the already overwhelmed health system's capacity to respond to the surge in injuries and critical need.

Hospitals and health facilities throughout the region also are experiencing have critical gaps in pharmaceuticals and other medical supplies.

International Medical Corps Response

All International Medical Corps staff in the country are safe and accounted for, though many were directly affected by the quakes. Our rapid-response teams were able to immediately deploy to Caracas and La Guaira.

Our assessment of La Guaira showed critical gaps in healthcare demand and availability. As a result of our findings, we are deploying mobile medical units to the affected areas to support overwhelmed health facilities with additional

FAST FACTS

- At about 6 p.m. local time on June 24, two back-to-back earthquakes of 7.1 and 7.5 magnitude hit northern Venezuela in rapid succession, seriously impacting the capital city of Caracas and the neighboring city of La Guaira.
- On June 25, the Venezuelan government declared a state of emergency.
- Conservative estimates anticipate casualties exceeding 10,000 people. At least 589 people have been killed and thousands injured, with casualty figures certain to rise as search-and-rescue efforts continue.
- Demand at the main hospitals in La Guaira has surged to 900% capacity.
- The main international airport in Caracas experienced partial collapse during the earthquake, seriously impacting international travel.

OUR RESPONSE

- Our mission in Venezuela includes 70 staff across Bolívar, Caracas and Delta Amacuro states, and has been in operating in country since 2019.
- International Medical Corps' rapid-response teams are on the ground in Caracas and La Guaira, conducting a rapid assessment of the damage.
- Our team in Caracas will deploy a mobile medical unit to the affected area within 48 hours, and will continue deploying additional units.
- International Medical Corps also will be distributing emergency hygiene kits, pharmaceuticals and medical supplies to hospitals and healthcare facilities in need.

staff, services and supplies. To respond to the critical lack of clean water in La Guaira, International Medical Corps will begin trucking in clean water, helping to ensure consistent access for community members and healthcare facilities.

Critical needs include pharmaceuticals, medical supplies and medical equipment for response units and health facilities that have been overwhelmed. Health facilities and communities are seriously in need of infection prevention and control services and supplies; water, sanitation, and hygiene services and supplies; and non-food items. Blood banks are at risk of being depleted, and there is an urgent need for food and clean drinking water. Mental health and psychosocial support is also urgently needed for survivors of the earthquakes, as well as for first responders and healthcare workers engaging in the response.