



A member of International Medical Corps' rapid-response team assesses damage in La Guaira, Venezuela.

On June 24, two devastating earthquakes struck Venezuela's north-central region. Just after 6:00 p.m. local time, a magnitude 7.2 earthquake was followed less than a minute later by an even stronger 7.5-magnitude quake, intensifying destruction across affected areas. More than 600 aftershocks, including some as big as 5.1 magnitude, have followed in the first week since the initial twin earthquakes, leaving affected communities in a constant state of fear and vulnerability.

The earthquakes have caused widespread and severe structural damage across Caracas, La Guaira, Miranda, Aragua, Carabobo and Falcón states. La Guaira has been declared a disaster zone and remains the epicenter of destruction, with entire neighborhoods reduced to rubble.

The Venezuela government has confirmed at least 2,295 deaths, 11,267 injured and more than 50,000 people unaccounted for. These figures are expected to rise significantly as search-and-recovery operations continue and access to the hardest-hit locations improves.

Critical infrastructure has been heavily impacted, with at least 1,520 homes and public buildings destroyed or rendered unsafe, displacing families that are now forced to seek shelter in overcrowded temporary spaces or remain exposed in the open. Essential services—electricity, potable water, gas supply and telecommunications—have been extensively disrupted, leaving entire communities cut off from basic lifelines and emergency communication channels. In Caracas, the main international airport experienced significant damage during the earthquake, which has seriously impacted international travel and the delivery of humanitarian aid.

Humanitarian needs are acute, complex and rapidly escalating. Access to lifesaving healthcare is critically limited, as hospitals and health centers face structural damage and overcrowding, as well as shortages of essential medicines, trauma supplies and personnel. Injured individuals face health risks due to delayed treatment, as do vulnerable populations—including children, the elderly and those with chronic conditions.

Critical needs include pharmaceuticals, medical supplies and medical equipment for overwhelmed response units and health facilities. Infection prevention and control (IPC), non-food items (NFIs), and water, sanitation and hygiene

FAST FACTS

- Just after 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.
- Hundreds of aftershocks as large as 5.1 magnitude have been felt in the first week since the twin quakes.
- On June 25, the Venezuelan government declared a state of emergency.
- The government has confirmed at least 2,295 deaths, with more than 11,000 injuries and tens of thousands displaced.
- The main international airport in Caracas experienced significant damage during the earthquake, affecting international travel and aid.

OUR RESPONSE

- Since beginning operations in Venezuela in 2019, International Medical Corps has strengthened the healthcare system by providing care and distributing equipment, medicines and medical supplies to health facilities and communities, reaching more than 3.7 million people and more than 120 centers across the country.
- International Medical Corps' rapid-response teams in Caracas and La Guaira are continuing assessments of the damage and needs, working in close partnership with local officials and partners.
- International Medical Corps already has deployed a mobile medical unit (MMU) and is preparing to deploy additional MMUs and a field hospital.
- We also will be distributing emergency hygiene kits, pharmaceuticals and medical supplies to hospitals and healthcare facilities in need.

(WASH) supplies are urgently required for health facilities and communities. Blood banks are at risk of depletion, and access to food and clean drinking water remains a pressing concern. Mental health and psychosocial support also is urgently needed—not only for earthquake survivors, but for first responders and healthcare workers involved in the response.

International Medical Corps Response

Within hours of the earthquakes, members of International Medical Corps' Venezuela team were in the affected areas assessing damage. On June 25, the day after the quakes, our team conducted rapid needs assessments in five communities and five health facilities in La Guaira, identifying critical gaps between healthcare demand and availability.

Based on these findings, International Medical Corps quickly deployed a mobile medical unit (MMU) to provide lifesaving first aid and primary healthcare services to displaced people and others affected by the quakes who have limited access to basic medical care. We plan to deploy additional MMUs in the coming days, and will be deploying a field hospital and emergency medical team early next week.

We deployed our initial MMU to Catia La Mar, Sector La Lucha, where the team has provided consultations, medicines, medical supplies and essential equipment to support timely, high-quality care. The MMU can assist up to 100 patients per day and is helping reinforce overstretched local health services by bringing additional clinical capacity, supplies and staff closer to affected communities.

Our rapid-response team also conducted a site visit to CDI Elizabeth Perdomo, a recently opened primary healthcare (PHC) facility in La Guaira. The facility is fully staffed with specialists, positioning it as a strong complement to our existing MMU there. We plan to adopt an integrated service-delivery approach that incorporates doctors currently supporting the adjacent shelter at Liceo Armando Reverón High School into the coordinated response, and expect to open a second shelter at the same site in the coming days. Under the agreed plan, our MMU will be deployed into surrounding communities to deliver general medical services. Cases that require specialized care will be referred directly to the PHC for follow-up treatment. We will deploy a second MMU team to support affected populations in Playa Grande, where needs remain significant.

International Medical Corps also is supporting a primary healthcare facility in Maiquetía with two nurses and one pharmacist, providing direct assistance to health facility staff, management of pharmaceutical and health supply stocks and improved organization of available medical commodities—helping to strengthen workflows and support continuity of care.

International Medical Corps also is reinforcing essential services and improving service delivery quality at the health-facility level by providing cleaning and disinfection supplies, helping to ensure safe, hygienic environments for patients and healthcare workers. In addition, International Medical Corps is working closely with local actors, health facility teams and community members to identify additional needs in health facilities, shelters and underserved locations.

Finally, International Medical Corps will deploy a field hospital early next week. Once the fixed facility is set up, the emergency medical team—which consists of 21 people from International Medical Corps' emergency roster, including doctors, nurses, a midwife and specialists in WASH, logistics and security—will begin providing affected populations with free medical services, including:

- triage, basic life support, first aid, stabilization and rapid diagnostic testing;
- outpatient care, including initial wound care, basic fracture management, and treatment for chronic and communicable diseases;
- basic maternal, obstetric and pediatric care; and
- mental health screening, psychosocial support and referral services.

International Medical Corps will continue working closely throughout the region with local actors and community members to map and identify additional needs in health facilities, shelters and underserved locations, enabling us to quickly expand coverage to areas where people and communities' needs are urgent and unmet.



Members of an International Medical Corps mobile medical unit deliver healthcare services at a displacement site in Catia la Mar, La Guaira, Venezuela.