



An International Medical Corps medical volunteer provides care at our field hospital in La Guaira.

On June 24, two earthquakes—measuring 7.2 and 7.5 in magnitude—struck Venezuela’s north-central region less than a minute apart. Authorities have reported more than 1,000 aftershocks following the initial earthquakes. The earthquakes were felt across much Venezuela and other countries in the region, with La Guaira experiencing the most severe impacts.

According to the Global Disaster Awareness and Coordination System (GDACS), approximately 9.73 million people have been affected—with 530,000 people having been exposed to “extreme earthquake intensity.” Given the widespread devastation, the government of Venezuela declared a National State of Emergency on June 25 while activating national response mechanisms. To date, official figures have reported 4,490 deaths, 16,740 injuries, 6,462 people rescued and approximately 17,907 people who have lost their homes.

The destruction of critical infrastructure has led to a complete collapse of health-service delivery in affected areas, forcing those seeking care to be referred to already overstretched hospitals—further increasing the burden on secondary health facilities. Reports have indicated that people are gathering outside public health facilities without receiving timely care, reflecting both capacity constraints and service disruptions. An urgent shortage of essential medicines, medical supplies and personnel, the breakdown of infection prevention and control (IPC) protocols and overwhelmed staff have additionally exacerbated the situation.

Affected populations have been left without basic necessities such as food and safe drinking water, and children have been left particularly vulnerable given the extent of family separations. Physical access also remains a major operational challenge. Damage to infrastructure, debris and secondary risks—such as unstable structures—have limited mobility and delayed the arrival of responders to some areas. These constraints are directly affecting the delivery of humanitarian aid and essential services, as well as the scale-up of rescue and recovery operations.

FAST FACTS

- On June 24, two earthquakes of magnitude 7.2 and 7.5 hit northern Venezuela consecutively, impacting at least seven states—including the capital city of Caracas and the neighboring city of La Guaira. In response, the government declared a state of emergency.
- A reported 9.73 million people have been affected by the quakes, with more than 530,000 people having been exposed to extreme earthquake intensity.
- Official figures have confirmed more than 4,490 fatalities, 16,700 injuries, 6,400 people rescued and nearly 18,000 without housing.
- Affected populations have been left without access to basic necessities such as medicines, healthcare services, food and safe water.

OUR RESPONSE

- International Medical Corps’ rapid-response teams immediately deployed after the quakes, conducting a rapid needs assessment on June 25.
- Based on identified needs, International Medical Corps quickly deployed an mobile medical unit (MMU) that has so far provided 1,273 consultations since beginning operations.
- On July 11, International Medical Corps opened an Emergency Medical Team (EMT) Type 1 Fixed facility to provide free medical services to impacted communities.
- Our teams have so far provided 164 consultations through this field hospital.
- International Medical Corps has conducted a detailed assessment of shelters housing displaced persons, and is conducting water trucking to multiple affected camps.

International Medical Corps Response

The day after the earthquakes, International Medical Corps’ in-country team conducted a rapid needs assessment across five communities and five health facilities in La Guaira, finding widespread structural damage, significant

humanitarian needs and critical gaps in emergency response capacity. Given these findings, International Medical Corps quickly deployed a mobile medical unit (MMU) to provide healthcare services to affected individuals across five communities: Las Salinas, Playa Grande, Playa Verde, Puerto Viejo and Sector La Lucha. Our MMU teams have so far provided 1,273 medical consultations.

The MMU's focus is not only on providing services in areas directly impacted by the earthquake, but also in remote regions that have lost access to healthcare services due to redirection of medical resources and personnel in response to the earthquake, ensuring continuity of care to communities both directly and indirectly impacted. We are adapting our MMU services based on evolving needs and coordinating with other responding organizations to ensure that the support we provide is effective and efficient.

We also have deployed an Emergency Medical Team Type 1 Fixed Facility to address the urgent healthcare needs in Venezuela. Open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week, the field hospital includes medical personnel as well as specialists providing support with logistics, finance, human resources, security, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

Located at Terminal de Autobuses de Catia la Mar, the facility is capable of providing a comprehensive set of services, including stabilization of trauma and non-trauma patients, emergency medicine, basic resuscitation and stabilization, wound care, basic fracture management, ultrasound, emergency obstetrical newborn care, outpatient maternal and child health, chronic disease care, pharmacy, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). Since beginning operations on July 11, we have provided 164 consultations at the field hospital, including wound care, lacerations requiring sutures, treatment of chronic illnesses exacerbated by the earthquake, replacement of critical medicines lost in the earthquake and services related to maternity-related health concerns.

International Medical Corps is integrating MHPSS and WASH services both in our MMU and our EMT operations. For example, at the field hospital, MHPSS services will include providing a safe space for those in search of support to cope with extreme distress and other mental health conditions.

We have established WASH and IPC support for the field hospital, to maintain basic services for patients and staff. The WASH team cleaned and disinfected an existing 90,000-liter water tank near the location, and installed a pressurized network to supply water to key clinical, hygiene and operational areas. Water treatment, storage and distribution measures have been implemented to support safe use at the facility.

International Medical Corps is preparing to expand safe water supply, emergency sanitation, hygiene promotion and waste management services beyond the facility to additional displacement sites and affected shelters. For example, we already have conducted a detailed WASH assessment of shelters accommodating internally displaced persons and have initiated water trucking to multiple affected camps.

Needs are continuing to increase given the compromised living conditions and increased risk of communicable disease, accumulation of waste in affected communities, and the upcoming rainy season and associated flooding. As the situation on the ground evolves, International Medical Corps is continuing to communicate with local and international organizations involved in the response, to ensure that we continue to provide critically needed services in an effective, coordinated manner.



Staff members inspect a section of the field hospital during setup.



Patients wait to receive care at the International Medical Corps field hospital in Playa Grande, La Guaira state.