



An International Medical Corps team member consults with a patient at International Medical Corps' EMT—a fully supplied, self-sufficient outpatient medical center—in La Guaira.

On June 24, two consecutive earthquakes—measuring 7.2 and 7.5 in magnitude, followed by nearly 1,500 aftershocks—struck Venezuela's north-central region. According to official reports, at least 6,125 people have died, 16,740 have been injured and 17,907 have lost their homes.

More than five weeks after the earthquakes, Venezuelans continue to face substantial public health risks. Deteriorating living conditions and lack of access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services have led to a resurgence of vector-borne and water-borne illnesses. These risks are particularly high for those living in transitional camps exposed to the elements. Additionally, those with noncommunicable diseases are facing severe difficulties in accessing critically needed medications and healthcare services. The mental health of affected communities is continuing to decline as a result of current living conditions, psychological consequences of the earthquakes and the disruption of social support networks.

The earthquakes occurred in the midst of an already vulnerable health and humanitarian situation, further straining essential services and infrastructure. Widespread population displacement has further exacerbated the critical humanitarian and public health needs—necessitating the continuation of support from both national and international responders.

International Medical Corps Response

Since deploying our [Emergency Medical Team \(EMT\) Type 1 Fixed Facility](#) to La Guaira on July 11, we have provided 3,109 consultations and are continuing to see sustained increased patient loads and acuity of conditions among patients there. On several occasions, we have even seen buses filled with patients—primarily women and children—arriving at the EMT for services. Our team is continuing to provide services to about 130 patients per day. As patient loads have grown, we have been able to keep up with the demand by training and hiring locally recruited staff who are now managing EMT operations as we rotate out international personnel. The integration of local staff has helped to ensure we have the human resources necessary to scale up our response in La Guaira as needs evolve, and to transition our response programming responsibly and sustainably.

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.
- Official figures have confirmed 6,125 fatalities, 16,740 injuries and 17,907 people who have lost their homes.
- The earthquakes have compounded pre-existing humanitarian vulnerabilities, leaving millions of people with limited access to healthcare services, clean water, food and other basic services.

Our Response

- International Medical Corps has deployed three mobile medical units, which have provided 3,336 consultations since beginning operations on July 1.
- On July 11, International Medical Corps opened an Emergency Medical Team (EMT) Type 1 Fixed Facility to provide free medical services to affected communities. To date, we have provided 3,109 consultations through the EMT.
- Our teams have delivered 290,000 liters of safe water across displacement sites, benefitting some 3,820 people.
- Our teams have so far provided 463 mental health consultations.

International Medical Corps is also delivering medical and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services through three mobile medical units (MMUs) in La Guaira that have provided 3,336 patient consultations to date. Our mobile teams have recently reported an increase in patients presenting with noncommunicable diseases, many of whom have likely never received treatment for their condition. As a result, many patients present at the MMUs experiencing severe complications of chronic illnesses, including diabetic ketoacidosis and advanced kidney disease, both of which can be life-threatening if left untreated. We anticipate this trend to continue as limited access to essential medications and healthcare services persists. As needs within affected communities evolve, International Medical Corps will continue to coordinate closely with national and international partners to ensure that services are targeted to areas where they will have the greatest impact.



International Medical Corps' nurses manage a triage tent at the EMT.

As earthquake survivors grieve their losses, they are living with fear, anxiety, sadness, sleeplessness and other stress reactions, with many requiring focused or specialized mental health care. This need has been further exacerbated by the destruction of health facilities and the limited number of MHPSS providers in the region, leading to significant increases in the number of people seeking support for post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety and situational depression at our facilities. Our MHPSS team has also reported that the situation is particularly dire for vulnerable individuals such as the elderly, those with pre-existing mental illnesses and those with neurological and cognitive disorders.

In response to these urgent needs, International Medical Corps is delivering MHPSS services across our MMU and EMT operations, providing 463 MHPSS consultations since July 3. We are continuing to provide psychological first aid, basic psychosocial support, psychoeducation to promote healthy coping mechanisms, a safe space for those coming in search of support, and safe referrals for those in need of higher levels of care. We are also integrating MHPSS assistance into our medical operations—referring patients to our MHPSS staff for further support as needed to ensure that they receive comprehensive care.

Water availability, sanitation coverage and hygiene conditions across transitional camps in earthquake-affected communities remain below minimum humanitarian standards, heightening the risk of communicable diseases. In response, International Medical Corps is continuing to provide WASH services through our EMT and at transitional camps.

We have delivered 30 portable toilets and eight 2,000-liter water tanks for safe water storage across settlement sites, and are continuing to provide safe water through water trucking, so far delivering 290,000 liters of clean water, benefitting an estimated 3,817 people in seven camps. Additionally, International Medical Corps is routinely conducting water testing in supported sites to ensure safe water quality.



International Medical Corps' WASH team installs a 2,000-liter tank at a transitional camp in La Guaira to safely store clean drinking water for the displaced.