



International Medical Corps staff members discuss the Caring for Caregivers training, which supports well-being and stress management among healthcare workers.

On June 24, two consecutive earthquakes—measuring 7.2 and 7.5 in magnitude—struck Venezuela’s north-central region in rapid succession. Official reports have indicated 6,509 deaths, 6,462 people who have been rescued and 226,696 people who have received hospital care following the quakes.¹

As response efforts transition from the emergency to the recovery phase, public health concerns around the El Niño phenomenon are rising. Heavy rainfalls and heat waves have occurred in Caracas and La Guaira state in recent weeks and epidemiological risks have increased, increasing the prevalence of waterborne and vector-borne diseases, as well as complications related to air quality and heat stress.² These conditions pose increased risks among already vulnerable populations, particularly those living in transitional camps or without access to safe water. In response to the risk of these illnesses, the Ministry of Health (MoH) has emphasized to community health areas and health committees the need for community-wide environmental sanitation programming.

International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps has provided 8,716 health consultations at our Emergency Medical Team (EMT) Type 1 Fixed facility in Catia La Mar, La Guaira state, since beginning services on July 11. The epidemiological profile of patients has shifted over the last few weeks, with our staff seeing an increase in infectious diseases—including vector-borne illnesses and viral infections, likely due to seasonal environmental changes. Since the last reporting period, infectious-disease consultations—primarily affecting adults and children over 5—increased by more than 46%. As a result, International Medical Corps has increased measures to screen for and detect endemic diseases such as dengue and leptospirosis, and has continued providing health-promotion messaging to reduce transmission of communicable disease.

FAST FACTS

- On June 24, two earthquakes of magnitude 7.2 and 7.5 hit northern Venezuela less than one minute apart, impacting at least seven states—including the capital Caracas and the neighboring state of La Guaira.
- Official figures have confirmed 6,509 fatalities, 6,462 people rescued and 226,696 people who have received hospital care following the quakes.
- Priority needs include healthcare services, clean water, food, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), adequate sanitation and hygiene facilities, protection support and shelter.

OUR RESPONSE

- International Medical Corps has deployed three mobile medical units, which have provided 12,017 consultations since July 1.
- On July 11, International Medical Corps opened an Emergency Medical Team Type 1 Fixed facility—a fully supplied, self-sufficient outpatient medical center—that has so far provided 8,716 consultations.
- Our teams have delivered more than 1.8 million liters of safe water in displacement sites.
- Our teams have provided 1,543 MHPSS consultations.

¹ <https://reliefweb.int/report/venezuela-bolivarian-republic/venezuela-bolivarian-republic-earthquake-response-situation-report-30-17-23-september-2026>

² <https://lawebdelasalud.com/venezuela-emite-alerta-sanitaria-por-fenomeno-el-nino>

As part of our efforts to support early recovery and strengthen service continuity, International Medical Corps is installing an emergency response field unit in a hospital in Caracas that has been inoperable since the earthquake. The unit will help provide essential healthcare services in an urban, underserved community where access to care has been disrupted for nearly four months. To enhance our ability to provide treatment to field-unit patients, International Medical Corps is conducting minor repairs to the hospital's annex to establish a temporary pharmacy for safe storage of medicines.

Since deploying the first of our three mobile medical units (MMUs) on July 1, International Medical Corps has provided 12,017 health consultations in remote and hard to reach communities in earthquake-affected areas. During this period, the MMUs reported similar epidemiological trends to those at the EMT, with outreach prioritizing the screening and detection of viral and vector borne illness. Home visits remain a critical service offering of our teams to provide accessible services to homebound individuals. Our MMUs, which continue to work with the MoH and community leaders to ensure continuity of care, have so far conducted 174 visits to 64 communities.

To help survivors dealing with grief and loss, International Medical Corps has provided 1,543 mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) consultations through our EMT and MMUs since beginning operations. Our team continues to provide child-focused psychosocial support through a child-friendly space at the EMT, as well as community-based MHPSS services through our MMUs, helping affected families strengthen coping capacities, identify protection concerns and access available services through referrals. Our teams report an increase in complex MHPSS needs that require multidisciplinary interventions and coordinated referrals to specialized protection, advanced healthcare and psychiatric services. This growing complexity, combined with a higher caseload, is highlighting the importance of integrated health and MHPSS services.

Our MHPSS team also continues to provide key training to staff at health facilities we support, including “Basic Psychosocial Skills” and “Caring for Caregivers.” In the Basic Psychosocial Skills course, health personnel learn how to provide supportive communication, practical assistance, recognize concerns requiring additional support, and make safe referrals. The Caring for Caregivers course helps responders reduce the risk of prolonged stress and burnout while supporting well-being, as they transition to providing other services for the community. To date, our team has trained 39 healthcare workers and community leaders.

To increase access to safe water, International Medical Corps' Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) team has delivered more than 1.8 million liters of clean water across communities, providing 20,000 liters of clean water per day to four camps and two communities collectively hosting nearly 3,000 internally displaced people and community members. In four of these distribution sites, International Medical Corps is the only WASH provider and the only source of safe water. Every week, we also provide 10,000 liters of clean water to another transitional camp hosting approximately 3,300 people. To ensure access to sanitation facilities, our WASH team maintains 36 temporary mobile toilets and six showers in the transitional camps and health facilities.

At the EMT and across five camps, our WASH team continues to distribute hygiene and dignity kits to vulnerable patients and community members, so far distributing 885 household hygiene kits, 59 individual hygiene kits, 159 dignity kits, 109 non-food item kits and 200 water survival boxes to 4,125 people. During these distributions, we provide training to support the safe and effective use of kit contents. To date, we have conducted 59 health- and hygiene-promotion sessions at the EMT and in surrounding communities, reaching 1,007 people on topics that have included safe water, water contamination, waterborne diseases and general hygiene.



The child-friendly space in our EMT is an environment where staff can provide psychological support services for children and caregivers.