



International Medical Corps staff deliver medicines and medical supplies to our EMT Type 1 Fixed primary healthcare center in Derna.

Due to a powerful storm that made landfall on September 10, catastrophic flooding struck coastal cities in northeast Libya on September 11, leading to 4,014 confirmed deaths. The emergency committee overseeing the region has stated that approximately 25% of Derna city has been submerged or destroyed.

Though search-and-rescue teams have managed to find 452 survivors from the rubble of collapsed buildings, more than 8,500 remain missing. Between 30,000 and 35,000 people displaced¹ by the floods are currently residing in overcrowded camps and settlements in and around Derna governorate, where they have limited access to clean water and sanitation.

The majority of health risks for flood survivors relate to the presence of contaminated water, as well as poor hygiene and sanitation facilities, which can lead to potential outbreaks of waterborne disease such as acute watery diarrhea and cholera, and vector-borne diseases such as typhoid fever, dengue, malaria and yellow fever. The healthcare infrastructure has been significantly affected; immediate emergency medical assistance and body bags for burials are still needed. Access to clean water and working sanitation facilities, as well as hygiene promotion, are critically required.

In addition, mental health and psychosocial support (MPHSS) services are needed in affected communities, long with services ranging from psychological first aid to specialized psychiatric care for the deeply traumatized people.

FAST FACTS

- More than 4,000 people are reported dead, while more than 8,000 people are missing and tens of thousands displaced
- The worst-affected areas are the cities Derna and Sousa, along with the neighboring towns of Al Bayada and Al Makhaili
- Needs for healthcare, mental health services and household goods for the homeless and logistical support are urgent
- As Libya enters its rainy season, the risk of outbreaks of diseases will increase

OUR FOOTPRINT

- International Medical Corps was the first international humanitarian organization in Libya after conflict began in 2011, and has since been providing critical health, nutrition, protection, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services

OUR RESPONSE

- We have delivered medications and supplies to our EMT Type 1 primary healthcare center
- Our medical teams have helped almost 100 patients in the past week
- We are delivering hundreds of hygiene kits to Derna next week.

¹ <https://reliefweb.int/report/libya/saving-lives-preventing-health-risks-and-restoring-health-care-services-aftermath-libya-floods>

International Medical Corps Response

Health

International Medical Corps has delivered medications and medical supplies to its EMT Type 1 fixed facility, a primary healthcare center (PHC) in Derna, earlier this week. Since September 17, our team, operating from this PHC, completed almost 100 outpatient consultation, providing services including wound dressing, antenatal and post natal care, and general medical issues. The team has also seen a rise in diarrhea cases, with cases rising from five to 300 in Derna in one week due to contamination of water from sewage overspill. Two cases seen at the PHC were referred to a higher care facility for further care and blood investigations.

International Medical Corps is finalizing recruitment for an EMT type 1 mobile team, which will be deployed to IDP settlements at four schools and one mosque in Derna.

International Medical Corps is in the process of expanding its health services to cover more affected areas by deploying additional EMT Type 1 Mobile teams in Derna and Soussa, as well as other target locations, coordinating efforts with the Ministry of Health (MoH) to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure maximum outreach to the affected population.

We are continuing to procure personal protective equipment (PPE) and body bags to continue supporting search-and-rescue efforts, and efforts to retrieve bodies from the sea. We are also in the process of transporting additional medicines into the country to support the expansion of our response.

MHPSS

International Medical Corps is finalizing a memorandum of understanding with the MoH to support the government-led Mental Health national hotline, which is expected to go live next week. To support this initiative, International Medical Corps has hired a team of three counsellors who will consult with people calling from affected areas requesting help with their mental health. We will expand this aspect of the response as needed.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

International Medical Corps will be distributing 200 hygiene kits in Derna and has been coordinating with the WASH working group to possibly deliver complementary WASH services at the health facility level in affected communities, including providing adequate water to the facilities while addressing infection prevention and control concerns in the community.

Coordination

International Medical Corps are coordinating with working groups, including Health, Protection and WASH, to ensure a collaborative program response with other stakeholders. International Medical Corps is also providing technical and logistical support to the Libyan Red Crescent, helping to conduct a rapid survey and assess healthcare services and capacity in Derna. We plan to extend health services to Soussa and Misrata, and are coordinating with local authorities as part of a rapid needs assessment.

Surge Capacity

International Medical Corps staff from the North Africa and Middle East region are deploying to provide surge support to the response and to support coordination efforts.