

ONE-YEAR UPDATE

# ISRAEL & GAZA CRISIS

## RESPONSE

 International  
Medical Corps



**INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS' APPROACH**

# OUR RESPONSE

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## ISRAEL

In Israel, where International Medical Corps does not have an operational presence, we are supporting ongoing response and recovery efforts by long-time partner JDC, which is providing health and mental health services to affected communities—with a focus on children, older people and people with disabilities—as well as training first responders and healthcare workers.



## GAZA

In Gaza, where we have worked since 2008, International Medical Corps has two fully functional field hospitals deployed in central Gaza. The hospitals offer surgical care for trauma, physical rehabilitation, comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care, advanced mental health care, child protection, nutrition support, water, sanitation and hygiene services, and more. We currently are providing care to as many as 2,000 civilians per day.

PROVIDING  
HUMANITARIAN AID IN



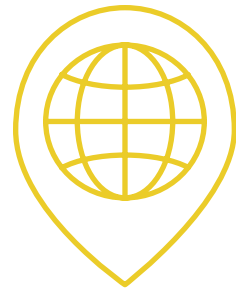
**ISRAEL**



Immediately following the October 7 attacks, JDC responded with a wide range of services and support for those in need, including financial assistance and targeted mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) for more than 450,000 Israelis impacted by the conflict.

Thanks to your support, JDC has so far:

- ✚ Provided MHPSS education and individualized trauma therapy to some 51,000 children and teenagers
- ✚ Provided guidance and support to more than 1,600 NGOs implementing emergency services and relief
- ✚ Provided training and tools to more than 64,000 professionals engaged in crisis response and trauma programs
- ✚ Delivered 366,000 pieces of medical equipment and first-aid supplies to local and volunteer medical units, hospitals and first responder groups
- ✚ Provided cash assistance and debt relief to more than 3,000 small-business owners
- ✚ Assisted more than 10,000 displaced job seekers through mobile employment centers



FROM THE FIELD

## Emergency Kits in the North of Israel



Aharon and Tamara are an older couple living in the northern community of Kirya Bialik. Due to poor health, Aharon requires an oxygen machine and near constant care. As threats of electricity outages and a further escalation loom, Aharon and Tamara are deeply concerned.

Recently, a local JDC coordinator reached out to Tamara and Aharon to bring them a kit including critical items that people may need in case of emergency: a battery-powered flashlight, a battery-powered transistor radio, a whistle, an activities booklet and an informational brochure. When the JDC coordinator met Aharon and Tamara at their home, she learned about Aharon's condition, and promised to find out how she could help. Today, not only does the couple have a kit that, as Tamara says, "has everything we could possibly need," they are also at the top of a list of residents requiring immediate assistance in the event of further escalation.

Thanks to JDC's program, the Kiryat Bialik municipality now knows about Aharon and will ensure that he is evacuated or provided with an alternate energy source should the community lose power.

To date, JDC has distributed emergency kits to 30,000 homes in 16 towns in northern Israel.

PROVIDING  
HUMANITARIAN AID IN



International Medical Corps is operating two state-of-the-art field hospitals in central Gaza.

Thanks to your support, International Medical Corps has:

- ✚ Provided 210,275 consultations
- ✚ Performed 7,052 surgeries, including major and moderate surgeries, and minor procedures
- ✚ Facilitated 2,591 births, including 588 caesarean sections
- ✚ Reached 13,233 people with MHPSS
- ✚ Screened 70,767 children under the age of 5—identifying and treating cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and severe acute malnutrition (SAM)
- ✚ Provided 40,618 people with gender-based violence prevention and response services
- ✚ Supported 21,969 children with psychological first aid (PFA), individual counseling and unstructured activities, including drawing, singing and dancing, and games—enabling children to explore their emotions in a child-friendly space
- ✚ Provided access to safe drinking water to 199,670 people and is producing more than 37,500 liters of clean water per day
- ✚ Procured 184 tons of medicines, medical equipment and supplies

*\*All numbers as of September 30, 2024*



# About Our Field Hospitals

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International Medical Corps' field hospitals provide comprehensive inpatient and outpatient services, surgical care for trauma, physical rehabilitation, comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care, MHPSS and more.

## Our field hospitals are:

- ▶ Operating 24 hours per day, 7 days per week
- ▶ Seeing as many as 2,000 patients per day
- ▶ Performing an average of 45 surgeries and delivering an average of 10 babies per day



# TIMELINE OF INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS' FIELD HOSPITAL OPERATIONS

As fighting shifts throughout Gaza, the safety of our patients and staff remains international Medical Corps' top priority. Our field hospitals are strategically composed of modular infrastructure units and tents that can be relocated with relative ease.

January 6, 2024

## Rafah Field Hospital Opens

International Medical Corps opened its first field hospital in Mirage-Rafah on January 6. Initially opened as a 50-bed facility, the site was rapidly expanded to 150 beds, given the significant needs.



April 7, 2024

## Rafah Field Hospital Relocates to Al Mawasi

As fighting intensified in Rafah, International Medical Corps made the difficult decision to shift the field hospital to Al Mawasi, to ensure the safety and security of staff and beneficiaries. The field hospital was shifted over the course of four days.

May 8, 2024

## Second Field Hospital in Deir al Balah Opens

International Medical Corps opened its second field hospital, a 50-bed facility, in Deir al Balah to address critical needs in central Gaza.



July 15, 2024

## New Field Hospital Opens in Al Zawaida (1 km from Deir al Balah)

In July, as the number of mass casualty events increased and the influx of IDPs from the south arrived in central Gaza, International Medical Corps opened a second field hospital focused on providing outpatient services. By shifting outpatient services to this second site, International Medical Corps is poised to expand capacity for secondary healthcare in Deir al Balah.



June 3, 2024

## Al Mawasi and Deir al Balah Field Hospitals are Combined

In June, International Medical Corps shifted all Al Mawasi field hospital operations to Deir al Balah as evacuation orders were issued for southern Gaza. The Al Mawasi field hospital and Deir al Balah facilities were merged to create a 200+ bed field hospital.





## Deir al Balah

- ▶ Covers 6,330 square feet and is constructed with five modular containers and 29 large tents, all fully powered and air-conditioned
- ▶ Equipped with four operating theaters and 200 beds, including emergency, post-operative care, labor and delivery, and intensive-care unit
- ▶ Staffed by 473 highly trained health workers, including doctors, surgeons, nurses, obstetricians, pharmacy specialists and lab technicians, among others



## Al Zawaida

- ▶ Covers 8,600 square feet, all fully powered and air-conditioned
- ▶ Equipped with 50 beds
- ▶ Home to several ancillary services, including vaccination, hygiene awareness-raising activities and nutrition support
- ▶ Staffed by 64 highly trained health workers, including doctors, surgeons, nurses, obstetricians, pharmacy specialists and lab technicians, among others



# Emergency and Surgical Services

As one of the top trauma-care providers in Gaza, we regularly respond to mass casualty events. Patient numbers can spike dramatically during these events, with daily surgeries sometimes doubling and requiring extensive pre- and post-operative resources. Our Deir al Balah field hospital is fully equipped and staffed with a team of surgical specialists who can stabilize patients, perform operations and preserve functionality of injured limbs.

## So far, we have:

- ▶ Provided 7,052 surgical and emergency trauma-care consultations
- ▶ Performed 2,451 major and minor surgeries
- ▶ Delivered 2,591 babies, including 588 through caesarean section
- ▶ Provided inpatient services to 5,761 people, with an average stay of approximately seven days



# Maternal and Child Health

Even in a stable living environment, pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) and children face increased health risks and require unique care. These risks are severely exacerbated in times of conflict, when access to healthcare, food, water and other basic necessities is scarce.

To address these critical needs, so far, we have:

- ▶ Provided ante- and post-natal care consultations to 7,901 pregnant women
- ▶ Delivered 2,591 babies, including 588 through caesarean section
- ▶ Reached 19,798 people with infant and young-child feeding (IYCF) counseling sessions, with integrated lactation support
- ▶ Reached 17,628 PLWs and children through prophylactic distribution of vitamin A





FROM THE FIELD

# Delivering Miracle Triplets at the Field Hospital



Ala'a Al-Gherbawi, a 30-year-old Palestinian woman from Gaza, had wanted a baby for many years. After suffering from fertility issues for eight-years, she and her husband finally turned to in-vitro fertilization (IVF). Finally, in early October 2023, one of Ala'a's pregnancy tests came back positive. Their last IVF cycle had worked. Ala'a and her husband were overjoyed.

Just a few days later, the conflict between Israel and Hamas erupted, sending Ala'a and her husband's life into chaos. They were displaced seven times and, to make matters even more complicated, Ala'a's ultrasound revealed that she was pregnant with triplets. The parents-to-be saw this news as both a blessing and a challenge. Ala'a wasn't sure if she would be able to get the specialized care that she needed.

Ala'a came to International Medical Corps' field hospital in Deir al Balah. The team supported her throughout her pregnancy, helping her reduce the risks to her health and that of the triplets.

On the day of the c-section, a new problem arose. The medical team successfully delivered the three babies, but the triplets were struggling to get enough oxygen and needed immediate care. The team took swift action to stabilize the babies' conditions, monitoring their recovery over the following 10 days and creating a nursery area in the field hospital to care for them until they were healthy enough to be discharged.

The team also attended to Ala'a, providing postnatal care, nutritional support, medical follow-ups and psychological care to ensure that the family's physical and emotional needs were all met. With the help of the field hospital team, Ala'a and her family are healthy and supported.

# Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

The experience of living in a war zone can have a lifelong effect on mental health. To address this growing need, we provide an array of MHPSS services at our field hospitals.

## So far, we have:

- ▶ Reached 3,924 adults with PFA services
- ▶ Reached 2,179 people through individual mental health counseling sessions
- ▶ Hosted group therapy sessions for 758 people
- ▶ Reached 4,084 people through awareness-raising sessions, covering topics such as stress management and dealing with grief



# Child Protection Services

Roughly half of Gaza's entire population is children. With many children orphaned or separated from their caregivers, the need for protection and MHPSS services among this highly vulnerable group is extremely high.

## International Medical Corps has:

- ▶ Hosted 10,039 children in our child-friendly space, where children can socialize and access mental health resources
- ▶ Provided PFA to 6,498 children
- ▶ Managed care plans for 287 children through our case-management program
- ▶ Reached 4,242 people through awareness-raising sessions for community members
- ▶ Provided individual counseling sessions for 353 children who showed signs of psychological trauma



# Nutrition Services

Food insecurity in Gaza has reached a catastrophic level. International Medical Corps collaborated with UNICEF and the Gaza Nutrition Cluster to address skyrocketing malnutrition through a comprehensive screening campaign for children under 5 called Find and Treat. Under the program, our community volunteers screened children for malnutrition, provided urgent treatment and enrolled those who require further care in our outpatient therapeutic program for follow-up care.

Through this campaign, as well as through our ongoing general nutrition services, we have:

- ▶ Screened 21,065 children under 5 for malnutrition within our facilities and screened 70,767 children through Find & Treat community screenings
- ▶ Identified and treated 1,065 cases of MAM and 452 cases of SAM with ready-to-use therapeutic food and micronutrient supplementation
- ▶ Provided 1,399 pregnant and lactating women with micronutrient supplementation
- ▶ Provided IYCF counseling services to 10,740 people
- ▶ Provided ready-to-eat meals to 33,979 people



# Polio Response

In mid-August, health officials reported the first case of polio in Gaza in more than 25 years. With health and sanitation infrastructure widely destroyed, Gaza continues to be susceptible to an outbreak, and with routine vaccines still largely inaccessible, infants and children are at increased risk of permanent injury or death from polio.

## To address this surging risk, we have:

- ▶ Vaccinated, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), 8,776 children under 5 against polio
- ▶ Conducted health education and hygiene promotion activities for 106,918 people
- ▶ Trained three International Medical Corps doctors as vaccinators through the WHO and UNICEF
- ▶ Begun planning our second major polio vaccination campaign, set to begin in October 2024





FROM THE FIELD

# Helping Fatma Heal and Reunite With Her Family



44-year-old Fatma was at home when a bomb blast changed her life forever. The blast caused massive damage to Fatma's abdomen and, with her home in ruins, her five-year-old daughter was nowhere to be found.

Fatma arrived at International Medical Corps' field hospital in a terrible state. She not only needed urgent and major medical intervention, but she was also in intense emotional distress, worrying about the safety of her daughter.

At the field hospital, doctors provided immediate medical care, while a psychosocial support worker used a technique known as psychological first aid to ease Fatma's distress. Working together, the doctors and psychosocial support worker were able to calm her down and give her the care she needed—saving her life.

Fatma's worries about her daughter continued and the psychosocial support worker demonstrated her commitment, eventually making contact with Fatma's family and arranging for her daughter, who was safe and sound, to visit the field hospital. All the while, the psychosocial support worker was preparing Fatma psychologically for a gauntlet of surgeries.

Fatma's recovery was difficult, but the trust built with her by the International Medical Corps doctors and psychosocial support worker, and the unwavering commitment to reunite her with her daughter, made all the difference.

"I would lie awake at night thinking about how I could help her, how I could possibly make contact with someone from her family," said the psychosocial worker who cared for Fatma. "I was imagining myself in such a situation one day. I insisted on not giving up hope. I visited her daily in the ward and supported her until we succeeded."





# Moving Forward

With no immediate end to the conflict in sight, the need for health and related services remains high. International Medical Corps is expanding our field hospital sites to reach as many people in need as possible.

## We are:

- ▶ Procuring additional modular infrastructure units to increase the capacity of our current field hospital sites
- ▶ Reinforcing existing medical access points located throughout central and south Gaza to expand access to routine vaccines for children, and to provide malnutrition screening and disease surveillance

# Media Highlights



December 20, 2023

165 Humanitarian Aid Trucks  
Crossed into Gaza Tuesday,  
Israel Says



February 6, 2024

Inside a Gaza Hospital as US  
Doctors Help Carry Out “a  
Small Miracle” to Save a Young  
Life Shattered by War



March 12, 2024

Retired NC Doctor Returns  
from Serving in Southern  
Gaza Hospital



March 25, 2024

Inside a Gaza IMC Field  
Hospital



April 28, 2024

The US Doctor Who Cannot  
Forget What He Saw in Gaza



May 30, 2024

Eyewitnesses Describe Horrific  
Scenes After Israeli Strike on  
Rafah Camp



June 9, 2024

An Israeli Raid Leaves a  
Gaza hospital Packed with  
the Wounded



July 23, 2024

Experts Fear Polio Is Spreading  
Undetected in Gaza

# THANK YOU

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