



On August 24, International Medical Corps deployed a EMT Type 1 Fixed Facility to Aquin, Haiti, to provide emergency and primary healthcare services to residents affected by the earthquake. The EMT Type 1 Fixed facility is equipped to provide support to 100 patients per day.

FAST FACTS

- On August 14, a devastating earthquake struck Haiti, leaving an estimated 650,000 people in need of immediate humanitarian assistance.
- More than 137,000 homes and 60 health facilities were damaged or destroyed.
- As of September 9, International Medical Corps has provided more than 300 medical consultations and distributed more than 6,000 liters of potable water to residents and healthcare providers.

It has been almost four weeks since a devastating earthquake struck southwestern Haiti, affecting more than 800,000 people. The 7.2 magnitude earthquake crumbled houses, schools and businesses, caused at least 2,248 deaths and injured 12,763 people. Search-and-rescue efforts in the hardest-hit areas concluded on September 2; however, some 329 people remain missing.¹ Since the initial quake, Haiti's Civil Protection Agency has recorded more than 900 aftershocks, with approximately 400 of those registering at a magnitude 3 or stronger on the Richter Scale.

Homes, infrastructure and livelihoods—particularly in rural areas, where approximately 80% of the affected populations live—have been much harder-hit compared to urban centers. Haiti's Civil Protection Agency estimates that, on average, five to seven times more homes were destroyed in rural areas than in urban ones. In the hard-hit departments of Grand'Anse, Nippes and Sud—all located on the Tiburon Peninsula—more than 60 health facilities and some 137,585 homes have been damaged or destroyed.² Thousands of people are displaced and are temporarily settled in 65 sites across the most affected departments.

In response to the needs, national authorities and humanitarian partners are continuing to scale up response efforts to hard-to-reach areas. Access and security constraints, however, continue to pose significant logistics and transportation challenges.

International Medical Corps Response

On August 24, at the request of the Haitian government, International Medical Corps began the process of deploying its [Emergency Medical Team \(EMT\) Type 1 Fixed medical facility](#) to Haiti to address the urgent needs of affected populations. An EMT Type 1 is a self-sufficient outpatient health facility that is fully equipped to serve a minimum of 100 patients per day.

International Medical Corps deployed our EMT Type 1 team—comprising 22 professionals, including clinicians, logisticians, mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS) specialists, and water, sanitation and hygiene experts—to Aquin, in the Sud department of Haiti. The Aquin arrondissement, or district, is located on the south coast and

¹ https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/20210907_SitRep%20no.%204_Haiti%20earthquake.pdf

² Ibid.

is home to more than 200,000 residents. The team began arriving in Haiti on August 24; we moved to our assigned site, in Aquin, on August 28; two physicians and 50 pallets of medicine arrived over that weekend, and 80 pallets with tents and medical equipment arrived August 31. The EMT Type 1 facility began seeing patients on September 2.

Between September 2–9, our team provided more than 450 medical consultations to residents, referred 27 patients and discharged more than 200 patients who required further medical follow-up. Referral services in the area have been overwhelmed, with many patients requiring surgery or other inpatient and specialty-care services, including neurology and orthopedics. Often, patients—particularly from rural areas—have required additional transportation, which has been difficult to procure, to obtain adequate care.

The demand for medical care in the region is extensive. On average, the team has turned away nearly 100 patients each day due to security and staffing capacity. The clinic only operates during daylight hours, to ensure the safety of staff and patients. In addition, capacity constraints in clinical staff caused by the surge of COVID-19 in the United States, along with transportation and logistical challenges in Haiti, have made staffing a challenge, leading to fluctuations in the number of clinicians onsite each day. Though the team is continuing to provide care to nearly 100 patients per day, the needs of residents in Aquin and its surroundings are continuing to overwhelm the capacity of healthcare facilities in the area.

At International Medical Corps' EMT Type 1 facility, the majority of patients seen have required medical attention for chronic diseases that are either indirectly or unrelated to the earthquake. Many patients have been heavily impacted by the disruption of healthcare or pharmaceutical services. They have arrived at the EMT Type 1 facility requiring treatment for skin diseases related to insufficient water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) in the area, and such chronic conditions as diabetes and chronic respiratory disease.

Many of these patients lost their medications during the earthquake. Because International Medical Corps' EMT Type 1 facility includes a pharmacy, our team has been able to meet this critical need. Approximately 57% of the patients seen to date have been males, the majority of whom are between the ages of 18 and 64. Along with providing emergency medical and basic primary care services, International Medical Corps' EMT also is providing sexual and reproductive health services, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services.



International Medical Corps' team unloads the EMT Type 1 Fixed facility that was delivered to Aquin.



Patients complete their registration at International Medical Corps' EMT Type 1 Fixed facility in Aquin.

The WASH team has distributed more than 4,000 liters of potable water to community members in Aquin. International Medical Corps also has provided WASH support to healthcare providers in the region, and has established water distribution points to support local residents. In total, the team has distributed more than 6,000 liters.

Moving forward, International Medical Corps is continuing to coordinate with PAHO/WHO and with Haiti's Ministry of Public Health and Population to ensure that our efforts complement the overall humanitarian response and meet the critical needs of the affected populations.