

Turkey



Turkey is home to more Syrian refugees than any other country in the world.

Now, Turkey faces long-term challenges such as integrating a large population that does not speak Turkish and absorbing the high costs of supporting those with little hope for returning to their home country any time soon. International Medical Corps has been responding to the refugee crisis in Turkey since 2012, providing humanitarian assistance, medical care and helping them establish a new life in a new country.

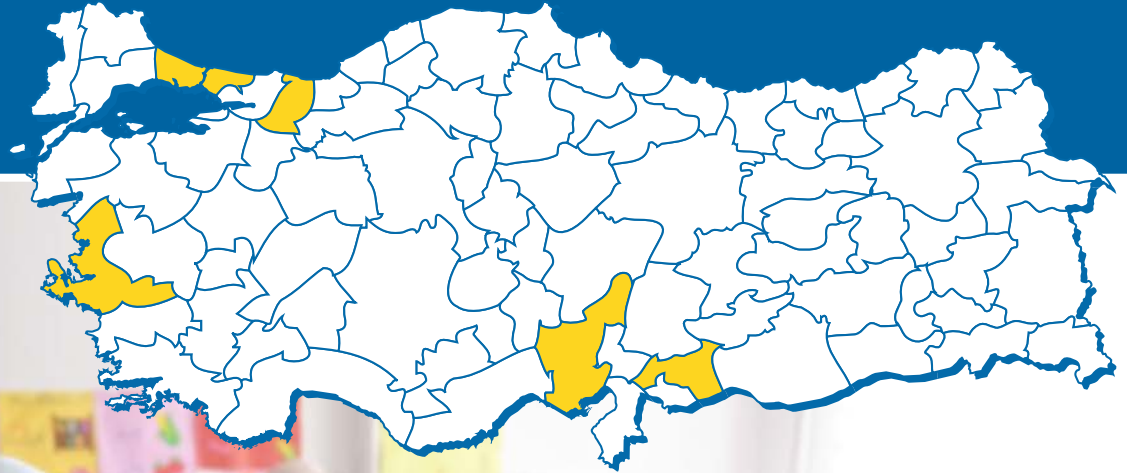


International Medical Corps had a well-established presence supporting refugees in Turkey before the Syrian crisis began.

In 2012, we became one of the first international humanitarian organizations to successfully register with the government of Turkey and immediately began implementing response programs for the Iranian refugee and asylum-seeking population in the cities of Kayseri and Nevşehir, using a community-based Multi-Service Center (MSC) model. In 2013, we began supporting Iraqi and Afghan refugees and asylum-seekers in northern Turkey. This existing capacity enabled us to be a First Responder when Syrian refugees began to arrive in the country and expand our operations via seven MSCs in Istanbul, İzmir, Sakarya, Gaziantep and Adana providing services to more than 300,000 people.

Where we work:

- Istanbul
- Gaziantep
- Sakarya
- İzmir
- Adana



PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

International Medical Corps provides psychological support through the MSCs to refugees suffering from psychological distress and/or mental problems. Our psychologists, social workers and community volunteers ensure a system of support is available for these individuals and their families. By mid-2015, approximately 9,000 people benefited from the psychosocial support mechanisms of our programs.

We also provide community-based psychosocial support including educational and recreational activities for vulnerable groups. These activities generally target children

and adolescents, pregnant and lactating mothers, single parent families with small children and the elderly and offer social cohesion and community revitalization among Syrian and other refugee populations. Examples of such activities include theater festivals; workshops in movie making, environment protection and life skills; activities based in creativity, math, or strategic games like chess and puzzles and interactive physical activities such as ball games and gymnastics.

SOCIAL COUNSELING, LEGAL REFERRALS AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

International Medical Corps provides various social services to refugees and asylum seekers such as educating refugees about accessing important services of daily life in Turkey such as basic health care, education and other services provided by the Turkish government and other actors. We also provide vocational trainings in knitting, sewing, computers and music, especially for young women and men, to learn new ways to make a living and support their families. Additionally, we provide Turkish language classes which help refugees adjust to life in a new country.

TRAINING

International Medical Corps collaborates with local NGOs in Turkey to implement our ongoing programs. International Medical Corps staff and consultants train the local NGO staff in finance, program administration and humanitarian assistance at the local level. We provide training to activity facilitators, psychosocial workers, community health workers, community leaders and active community members in such sensitive topics such as basic concepts and guiding principles in gender-based violence and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. We also train local NGOs in international humanitarian assistance standards, international humanitarian rights.

ACCESS TO PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

Skilled nurses on staff at the MSCs provide basic health services for refugees including checking immunization cards and providing reproductive health, mental health and hygiene education sessions. Our nurses also examine patients for more serious conditions and provide referrals to primary health or reproductive health services at local state-run hospital.

NON-FOOD AND CASH BASED ASSISTANCE

Through a voucher debit card system we provide non-food and cash based assistance to vulnerable families by allowing them to choose the most appropriate items for their needs. Families receive a cash voucher card worth 80 to 360 Turkish Lira based on their vulnerability, which they can use to purchase items at local markets such as food and other essential goods.





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Since its inception 30 years ago, International Medical Corps' mission has been consistent: relieve the suffering of those impacted by war, natural disaster and disease, by delivering vital health care services that focus on training. This approach of helping people help themselves is critical to returning devastated populations to self-reliance.

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