

Syria



Now in its eight year with no end in sight, Syria's civil war has become the largest and most complex humanitarian catastrophe in our world today.

Relentless fighting has claimed an estimated one-half million lives and caused nearly half the country's pre-war population of 21 million to flee their homes for safety, either elsewhere inside Syria or as refugees outside the country.

International Medical Corps has operated inside Syria since 2008, first supporting Iraqi refugees and vulnerable local populations and later expanding to respond to the needs of a conflict-affected population, despite intense challenges to humanitarian access.





More than 13 million Syrians are in need of humanitarian assistance today due to this century's bloodiest, most brutal conflict.

Violence has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives and has sparked the largest population exodus since World War II, with more than six million people displaced inside Syria and over five million seeking refuge in neighboring countries. Humanitarian access remains abysmal, leaving the most vulnerable cut off from critical assistance.

On the frontlines, International Medical Corps has been helping those displaced in and around Damascus since the start of the conflict. Simultaneously, we continue to support tens of thousands of the 5.6 million Syrians who have sought refuge in neighboring countries, including Lebanon, Iraq, and Jordan. In addition, when the door briefly opened for refugees to enter Europe, International Medical Corps was there to assist them as they landed on Greek island beaches following oft-perilous journeys across the Mediterranean.



With operations based in Damascus, in 2017 International Medical Corps has:

- ▶ Performed over 415,000 primary healthcare consultations, 15% of which were for children below 5 years of age
- ▶ Screened almost 9,000 children for malnutrition
- ▶ Provided over 3,800 people with mental health and psychosocial support
- ▶ Reached over 3,200 people with psychosocial activities
- ▶ Provided emergency relief supplies to over 270,000 people.

In addition, through its capacity-building interventions aimed at strengthening resilience among the affected population, in 2017 International Medical Corps trained nearly 1,800 local health workers in mental health and psychosocial services as well as protection services.



EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Our emergency response experts, including our mobile medical units, work rapidly to address ongoing emergencies and the massive needs of families fleeing violence, ensuring increased access to primary health care services. International Medical Corps regularly distributes relief supplies to tens of thousands of people in need. This includes medical aids for people suffering from physical disabilities such as wheelchairs, walkers, air mattresses, and toilet chairs, as well as hygiene items such as soap, shampoo, and diapers.

HEALTH CARE

Civil war has taken a tremendous toll on Syria's health care system, damaging and destroying many hospitals and clinics and causing countless doctors and nurses to flee the country. Furthermore, many health facilities have become overburdened and unable to deal with the surge in caseloads that result from damage to nearby facilities, limited supplies and equipment, and shortages of qualified staff. International Medical Corps, in coordination with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), currently supports three static and two mobile primary healthcare clinics in Syria. These facilities provide vital primary health care services to Syrian families, including care for communicable and non-communicable diseases, mother and child health, reproductive health services, management of moderate malnutrition, and individual and group health education sessions. We also provide financial support for life- and disability-threatening conditions through referrals to contracted private hospitals and follow-up services.



MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

The war has exposed Syrian families to extreme levels of violence. They have lost loved ones, livelihoods, and homes. To help Syrians cope with emotional distress and trauma, International Medical Corps integrates mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) into our health care services. Our Recreational Activity Center in Jaramana in rural Damascus offers a wide range of activities to provide psychosocial support to children and families, including programs specifically geared toward engaging youth, as well as a rehabilitation program for children with development delays and disorders.

International Medical Corps mainstreams protection interventions within all of our programming, including prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV). We provide case management for GBV survivors and run awareness campaigns in displacement shelters and health care clinics. In addition, in collaboration with accredited institutions, International Medical Corps offers vocational training and business startup kits to vulnerable displaced and local populations to help build resilience and restore livelihoods.



WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

International Medical Corps runs hygiene promotion campaigns in displacement shelters, schools, and communities in an effort to prevent disease outbreaks and keep vulnerable families healthy. We also distribute hygiene kits and other basic materials to help people stay clean and healthy. In addition, International Medical Corps has developed a training manual on hygiene education concepts and developed Information, Education, and Communication materials and tools tailored to the Syrian context, which other relief organizations inside Syria have adopted. We recently updated the materials to include tools specifically addressing the needs of children. International Medical Corps has also trained more than 400 SARC volunteers and 25 international aid workers on hygiene promotion.



CAPACITY BUILDING

International Medical Corps is the lead organization in Syria providing capacity building for frontline health workers delivering mental health and psychosocial services; child protection services; GBV prevention and response; and hygiene promotion. Since 2015 and in collaboration with UNHCR, International Medical Corps has conducted various technical trainings and capacity-building activities targeting over 3,000 Syrian responders. These trainings directly support our mission to foster self-reliance amongst populations affected by war and disaster.

SYRIAN REFUGEE RESPONSE IN JORDAN

International Medical Corps provides medical care in Jordan's Azraq refugee camp, home to nearly 38,000 Syrian refugees. There, International Medical Corps runs three primary health care clinics and a hospital, which on average provide respectively over 10,000 and 6,600 consultations a month. In Zataari camp, International Medical Corps recently began providing primary health care and emergency care services through one primary health care clinic and one emergency room, which is operational 24/7.

We integrate MHPSS interventions into International Medical Corps and Ministry of Health facilities. A dedicated, multidisciplinary team comprised of psychiatrists, psychologists, mental health nurses, and case managers provide mental health services, which we integrate with psychosocial activities. We engage children and youth with mental health concerns in structured activities that aim to relieve their concerns and improve their psychological and social wellbeing. In addition, International Medical Corps runs a safe space for women and girls in Azraq camp, where protection measures are in place to prevent GBV and connect them to services within the camp.

SYRIAN REFUGEE RESPONSE IN LEBANON

International Medical Corps provides a comprehensive package of essential services in Lebanon, home to nearly 1.5 million Syrian refugees. We support a network of more than 50 primary health care centres throughout the country that offer a wide range of curative health services, as well as preventive health care through routine physical examinations, paediatric check-ups, growth monitoring, immunization and reproductive health services, including maternal health and family planning. We integrate mental health services into primary health care to improve access among Syrian refugees, as well as the Lebanese host population, in a culturally manner. Mental health case management teams consisting of social workers, psychotherapists and psychiatrists work with local partners to ensure services are available for clients in need of psychiatric, psychological and social support. At the community level, case managers play a key role in raising awareness of the importance of mental health and providing information about available support services.



SYRIAN REFUGEE RESPONSE IN TURKEY

In partnership with local organizations, International Medical Corps supports primary health care centers in Turkey to increase Syrian refugees' access to medical services. The facilities offer free primary health care, including pediatric clinics, as well as reproductive and maternal health care, and mental health and psychosocial support. We are also working to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in Turkey by providing case management for existing cases, offering mental health support for survivors, and helping empower Syrian women through training and skills-building activities.



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A preeminent First Responder for more than 30 years, International Medical Corps has provided emergency relief to those struck by disaster, no matter where they are, no matter what the conditions, working with them to recover, rebuild and, through training, gain the skills and tools required to achieve self-reliance.

MAY 2018

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