

Syria



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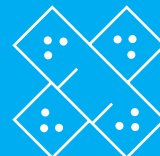
fighting has killed 500,000 people, and caused nearly half of the country's pre-crisis population of 21 million to flee their homes, leaving them either displaced inside Syria or as refugees outside the country. International Medical Corps has operated inside Syria since 2008, first supporting Iraqi refugees and vulnerable local populations. We later expanded our work to respond to the needs of those caught up in the conflict.



More than 13 million Syrians are in need of humanitarian assistance today.

The widespread and intense nature of the violence has led to one of the largest population movements since World War II, with more than 6 million people displaced inside Syria and almost as many seeking refuge in neighboring countries and beyond. In many areas, reliable and uninterrupted humanitarian access remains a significant challenge.

International Medical Corps has been helping those displaced in and around Damascus since the start of the conflict.



With operations based in Damascus, in 2020 International Medical Corps has:

- ▶ performed 209,289 primary healthcare consultations, 14.8% of which were for children under the age of 5;
- ▶ screened 32,418 children for malnutrition;
- ▶ provided mental health and psychosocial support to more than 748 people;
- ▶ reached 3,228 people with psychosocial activities; and
- ▶ provided emergency relief supplies to nearly 350,000 people.

In 2020 International Medical Corps trained 788 professionals in health and hygiene promotion, and in mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), strengthening the area's capacity for resilience.

HEALTHCARE

The crisis has taken a tremendous toll on Syria's healthcare system, damaging and destroying hospitals and clinics, and causing countless health professionals to flee the country. Health facilities that are still functioning struggle with limited supplies and equipment, as well as shortages of qualified staff. The workforce inside Syria is overwhelmed and unable to deal with the surge in caseloads, given the damage to hospitals, clinics and other key infrastructure.

International Medical Corps currently supports three primary healthcare clinics and six mobile medical teams in the country. All of these facilities provide vital primary healthcare services to Syrian women, children and men, including preventing and treating communicable and non-communicable diseases, maternal and child health, reproductive health services, and individual and group health education sessions. We also support people affected by life-threatening and altering conditions by referring them to higher-level care and follow-up services. Of course, International Medical Corps also has adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic, and are continuing to provide assistance to people in need.



MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS) AND CHILD PROTECTION

The crisis has exposed Syrian families to extreme levels of violence. They have lost loved ones, livelihoods and homes. To help Syrian communities cope with emotional distress and trauma, International Medical Corps integrates MHPSS into all of our healthcare services. Jaramana Recreational Activity Center (RAC) in Rural Damascus Governorate and our mobile MHPSS and protection teams offer a wide range of recreational and educational activities, including psychosocial support to children families and a reading club.

This includes programs specifically designed to engage youth, a rehabilitation and inclusion program for children with development delays and disorders, speech therapy, parenting-skills programs and case management services covering mental health, gender-based violence (GBV) and child protection.

International Medical Corps includes protection principles in all of our programs. We deliver focused child protection as well as GBV prevention and response programs to address specific protection needs, providing care and support for survivors. We provide case management services in healthcare clinics and conduct awareness and information campaigns in our recreational activity center, in displacement shelters and in other communities. In addition, in collaboration with relevant institutions, International Medical Corps offers vocational training and business startup kits to vulnerable displaced populations, helping to restore livelihoods and build resilience.

TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

International Medical Corps provides training for frontline health workers that deliver mental health and psychosocial services, including those responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and working to promote proper hygiene. Since 2015, International Medical Corps has conducted various technical training and capacity building activities, targeting more than 3,000 Syrian responders and helping to foster self-reliance among populations affected by crisis and disaster.



SYRIAN REFUGEE RESPONSE IN JORDAN

In Jordan's Azraq and Za'atari refugee camps, home to more than 37,000 and 78,000 Syrian refugees respectively, International Medical Corps provides primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare. Our services include emergency care, sexual and reproductive care, emergency obstetrics, neonatal care, pediatric, dental, pharmaceutical and diagnostic care. On average, International Medical Corps provides 16,000 healthcare consultations per month.

A multidisciplinary team comprising psychiatrists, psychologists, mental health nurses and case managers provides MHPSS activities at facilities operated by International Medical Corps as well as by the Ministry of Health (MoH). We engage children and youth with mental health concerns in structured activities to improve their well-being. In 2020 and 2021, to continue this support despite restrictions caused by COVID-19, we have adapted our MHPSS services to provide virtual care wherever possible. We also have continued to educate people about COVID-19 and its impact on mental health, linkages between the pandemic and mental well-being, and how to cope with stressors.

The team also continues to assist the MoH with its COVID-19 vaccination campaigns in the main refugee camps. Our staff is carrying out identification and registration of refugees according to the prioritization criteria, providing vaccinations, observing vaccinated people for immediate side effects and reporting these to UNHCR and the MoH, updating the vaccination list, following up on the second dose, providing transportation when needed and providing general management of the COVID-19 center.



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 more than 50 primary healthcare centers throughout the country that offer a wide range of curative and preventive healthcare through routine physical examinations, pediatric check-ups, growth monitoring, immunizations and reproductive health services, including maternal health and family planning.

To improve access among Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese communities, we integrate mental health services into primary healthcare in a culturally sensitive manner. Mental health case management teams—comprising social workers, psychotherapists and psychiatrists—work with local partners to ensure that services are available for those 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 provide information about available support services.



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A pre-eminent first responder since 1984, International Medical Corps delivers emergency medical and related services to those affected by conflict, disaster and disease, no matter where they are, no matter what the conditions. We also train people in their communities, providing them with the skills they need to recover, chart their own path to self-reliance and become effective first responders themselves.

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