



Damage in Jandairis, in the Aleppo governorate in Syria, where dozens of homes and buildings collapsed during Monday's pre-dawn earthquakes. As of February 9, more than 17,000 deaths have been recorded. Source: OCHA

The death toll in Turkey and Syria has surpassed 17,000 people, in the world's deadliest earthquake disaster in more than a decade.¹ As of February 9, more than 65,000 people in both countries have been injured as a result of the quakes.² The number of deaths and injuries is expected to rise significantly in the coming days, resulting in increased needs for medical care. Rescue workers are continuing recovery efforts in frigid temperatures. Temperatures in Gaziantep—near the epicenter in southern Turkey—dropped to 20 degrees Fahrenheit (-7 degree Celsius) overnight, impeding search efforts and leaving those who remain trapped inside buildings, as well as survivors left homeless, in danger of freezing.

Damage to critical infrastructure—including roads, power grids, water and sanitation systems, hospitals and healthcare facilities—is severe in both countries, with more than 11,000 buildings reported as damaged or destroyed. In Syria, civilian infrastructure and basic services were already decimated as a result of almost a dozen years of conflict. Nearly 30% of all hospitals and public healthcare facilities in Syria were non-functional and unable to respond to increasing health needs as a cholera outbreak spread through every governorate in the country in September 2022.³ This crisis will add further strain to limited resources.

In Turkey, two hospitals in Hatay—the southernmost province in Turkey, which borders Syria to its south and east—were destroyed, leaving residents in one of the hardest-hit areas with limited access to critically needed trauma care.⁴

FAST FACTS

- 7.8- and 7.5-magnitude earthquakes struck southern Turkey on February 6.
- More than 17,000 are reported dead and thousands injured, with more than 14,000 deaths in Turkey and almost 4,500 in Syria.
- As many as 23 million people—including 1.4 million children—are likely to have been impacted in Turkey and Syria, according to WHO.

OUR FOOTPRINT

- International Medical Corps has been present in **Syria** since 2008.
- We are currently working in 10 governorates across the country, supporting 33 health facilities that provided more than 620,000 health consultations and supported 6,850 mental health cases in 2022.
- International Medical Corps worked in **Turkey** from 2012 until 2018, with extensive programs in southern areas (including Gaziantep, Hatay, Sanliurfa, Kilis and Mersin) providing health, MHPSS, GBV, child protection and WASH programs.

OUR RESPONSE

- Delivered three trucks carrying 15 metric tons of medications, medical supplies and cholera kits to support facilities in Aleppo, Hama and Lattakia in **Syria**.
- Establishing five mobile medical units to provide primary health, trauma, and sexual and reproductive health services to more than 1,000 patients per week.
- In **Turkey**, International Medical Corps is coordinating with local partners to address immediate needs related to non-food and food items.

¹ <https://www.cnn.com/middleeast/live-news/turkey-syria-earthquake-updates-2-9-23-intl/index.html>

² <https://www.cnbc.com/2023/02/08/crews-find-survivors-many-dead-after-turkey-syria-earthquake.html>

³ <https://www.emro.who.int/media/news/cholera-further-exacerbates-vulnerabilities-in-syria.html>

⁴ <https://reliefweb.int/report/turkiye/turkiye-syria-earthquake-february-2023-daily-highlights-06022023>

International Medical Corps Response

In the wake of the crisis, International Medical Corps is expanding our health, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), protection (including child protection and gender-based violence support), non-food item distribution, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services to address the immediate needs of affected communities in Syria and Turkey. While International Medical Corps is in discussions with the World Health Organization (WHO) to deploy its [Emergency Medical Team](#) (EMT) Type 1, our teams are procuring and delivering essential medications, supplies and cholera kits to support healthcare facilities and to safeguard frontline healthcare workers. We also are deploying mobile medical units (MMUs) to provide healthcare services to displaced people and working with local partners to procure and distribute essential non-food items (including blankets, hand sanitizers and sanitary pads) and food.

In **Syria**, International Medical Corps is coordinating with local health authorities to address critical gaps in services and enable functional healthcare facilities to rapidly scale up their care for communities. In the 48 hours following the quake, International Medical Corps' emergency response team began meeting with local authorities and intergovernmental agencies to assess needs and begin dispatching medical supplies, consumables, pharmaceuticals and non-food items to support healthcare facilities and affected communities. International Medical Corps' health team coordinated with the Ministry of Health (MoH) to get appropriate mission letters to deploy teams to Aleppo and Lattakia to perform rapid assessments and to begin distributing non-food items—including blankets, jackets and water—to displaced people in temporary shelters and camps in Lattakia.

On February 8, International Medical Corps delivered 15 metric tons of medications, medical supplies—including antibiotics, asthma medications and trauma-related supplies, such as bandages—and cholera kits to the MoH warehouses in Aleppo, Hama and Lattakia. These items will be distributed—in coordination with the MoH—to primary healthcare centers and public health facilities that are facing a surge in caseloads. Additionally, International Medical Corps is preparing to deploy five MMUs to Aleppo, Hama and Lattakia to provide integrated primary healthcare and MHPSS services. The MMUs follow EMT Type 1 principles and provide a comprehensive and cohesive package of services, including triage; stabilization and referral of complicated cases; management of minor trauma cases, communicable and non-communicable diseases; and basic obstetric care, along with clinical care for children. The MMUs will focus on providing services to the thousands of displaced people living in shelters and camps throughout the Aleppo, Hama and Lattakia governorates.



In the wake of the quake, International Medical Corps quickly deployed essential pharmaceuticals and trauma supplies – including bandages and gauze – to Aleppo, Hama and Lattakia to support the Ministry of Health.



On February 8, International Medical Corps delivered 15 metric tons of medications and medical supplies to the Ministry of Health in Syria, to support health facilities in Aleppo, Lattakia and Hama.

In addition to providing consultations, the MMUs are equipped with a mobile pharmacy providing free medications, and the mobile medical team includes a qualified pharmacist to provide prescriptions. The pharmacy will dispense primary healthcare medications based on International Medical Corps' Essential Medication List (EML) and cover chronic- and urgent-care needs. Additionally, based on our initial assessments, our medical and emergency response teams are preparing a list of supplementary medications, consumables and non-food items—such as blankets, jackets and water—that can easily be distributed via MMUs to provide affected communities with additional support. Finally, each MMU will also have a health educator onboard who will raise awareness on health, mental health, preventive health and hygiene-related themes. In addition to the MMUs, International Medical Corps has dispatched three ambulances to support the transport of critical-care cases to functioning facilities, and has deployed community health workers to support surgical hospitals that have been facing a surge in patient caseloads.

In addition to ensuring that MHPSS support is available via the MMUs, International Medical Corps is continuing to play a leading role in informing, responding to and coordinating MHPSS programming in emergencies. Within 24 hours of the earthquake, International Medical Corps was named co-chair of the MHPSS Cluster Technical Working Group, and our teams will be conducting psychological first-aid (PFA) training to provide frontline healthcare workers with

tools to reduce stress, provide emotional support and identify those in need of professional services. International Medical Corps is also operating a 24-hour MHPSS hotline and six centers that are providing services from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., including weekends, in the Aleppo governorate.

In **Turkey**, International Medical Corps deployed three emergency-response team members to conduct rapid needs assessments and meet with partners in Ankara. From 2012 until 2018, International Medical Corps worked extensively in the southern region of the country, including in Gaziantep, Hatay, Kilis, Mersin and Sanliurfa. In response to the earthquake, International Medical Corps is coordinating with local partners to address immediate needs related to non-food and food items. Urgent needs include blankets, drinking water, hot meals/food parcels, baby food/formula, diapers, wet wipes, heaters, kitchenware, cookware and utensils, and basic first-aid kits. Given the vast number of those displaced and the damage to infrastructure, shelters and camps are preparing to operate for several months and are looking for essential items—including those needed to set up mobile kitchens to provide hot and ready-to-eat meals—needed to house affected community members for long periods.

As relief efforts continue, International Medical Corps is preparing to mobilize additional resources to support local partners in providing MHPSS support, procuring and distributing food and non-food items, and establishing and increasing access to WASH systems, particularly for those in shelters and camps.