



More than a week after a powerful earthquake struck Turkey and Syria, the death toll rose to more than 46,000, as rescue teams continue to search for survivors in the rubble. Destruction in the region is catastrophic, with more than 63,000 buildings damaged and 18 million people affected.

On Monday, a 6.4 magnitude earthquake rocked Turkey's Hatay province. This powerful quake occurred only two weeks after the region was devastated by powerful tremblors that left more than 46,000 people dead in Turkey and Syria. Prior to this new quake, rescue operations were expected to cease soon, as anyone trapped in the rubble has been days without food or water for 14 days. Preliminary reports for this latest quake indicate that the death toll will be relatively low this time because the earthquake struck an area that was largely empty after it was badly damaged in the tremblors on February 6.

The earthquakes on February 6 struck while most people were sleeping, leaving many trapped inside buildings that collapsed. Additionally, the quakes hit communities at the peak of winter, leaving many tens of thousands of survivors in both countries homeless and struggling in freezing cold temperatures to meet basic needs, including shelter, food, water, heaters and medical care.

In Turkey, more than 105,000 people have been injured as a result of the quakes.¹ According to preliminary assessments, only one in seven family healthcare centers in the most affected areas are functional, leaving thousands without access to essential services.² The situation in Syria also is dire. Before the earthquake, some 15.3 million people already were in need of humanitarian assistance. A 12-year war had already decimated essential public services and limited access for thousands of households across the country to basic support. In 2022, the United Nations reported that only 59% of hospitals and 57% of primary healthcare facilities were functioning. The earthquake will result in further collapse of basic services. Additionally, the war has

FAST FACTS

- 7.8- and 7.5-magnitude earthquakes struck southern Turkey on February 6.
- More than 46,000 are reported dead, with many more thousands injured; 40,642 deaths have been reported in Turkey, and 5,814 in Syria.

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, Kilis and Mersin and Sanliurfa) providing health, MHPSS, GBV, child protection and WASH programs.

OUR RESPONSE

- Delivered more than 15 metric tons of medications, medical supplies and cholera kits—with more on the way—to support facilities in Aleppo, Hama and Lattakia in **Syria**.
- Operating three mobile medical units in Aleppo governorate and deployed two mobile medical teams to Lattakia to provide emergency and trauma care to internally displaced people in shelters and camps.
- In **Turkey**, International Medical Corps has partnered with a local organization to procure and deliver critically needed food and non-food items to displaced people in Hatay province.

¹ <https://reliefweb.int/report/turkiye/flash-appeal-turkiye-earthquake-february-april-2023>

² Ibid.

complicated and delayed relief efforts, with authorities and humanitarian aid organizations debating over how to best move aid into the country and distribute it.

International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps is providing critically needed services and support—including 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 earthquake-affected communities in Syria and Turkey.



On Tuesday, the United Nations released its flash appeal, highlighting that 8.8 million people in Syria have been affected by the earthquake and need some form of humanitarian assistance.

In **Syria**, International Medical Corps is continuing to support functioning healthcare facilities in the region by procuring and delivering essential medications, consumables and supplies, help them to deliver healthcare services despite a surge in demand. In the immediate aftermath of the quake, our teams delivered more than 15 metric tons of medications, medical supplies and cholera kits to Ministry of Health (MoH) warehouses in Aleppo, Hama and Lattakia. The MoH is delivering the items to hospitals and public health facilities in the affected areas, with distributions ongoing. As of February 20, 11 hospitals have received medical consumables, medications and supplies from this initial procurement.

Based on discussions with local healthcare authorities in and around Aleppo governorate, more than 100 healthcare facilities are in need of medicines, supplies,

consumables and equipment. Earlier this week, our teams meet with administrators and clinicians at several trauma hospitals that are still functioning in the affected regions. Our teams delivered pharmaceutical kits to the facilities and continue to meet with teams to discuss and prioritize needs.

Given the sheer number of functioning facilities in need of support, our teams are procuring additional pharmaceuticals—including psychotropic medications—and medical consumables, supplies and equipment, helping to ensure continuity of services in the affected region. An additional shipment of medications and consumables will be delivered to Lattakia later this week, with more shipments en-route. With the number of casualties increasing in the aftermath of the quake, the need for specialized care for critical cases and severe injuries has also risen exponentially. International Medical Corps is working with local authorities to procure essential equipment—such as portable X-rays, oxygen concentrators, surgical instruments and patient monitors—to support trauma and surgical departments.

Before the earthquake, healthcare services were severely limited, with less than 60% of the country's public health facilities functioning. Those that were operational recorded shortages in medical supplies, consumables and qualified healthcare providers—limiting their ability to provide essential services. Though the full extent of damage to healthcare facilities is still being assessed, preliminary reports indicate that hundreds of facilities in Syria were directly affected by the quake—with many sustaining damage to their infrastructure. Given these gaps and the large-scale internal displacement, International Medical Corps is also deploying mobile medical units (MMUs) and mobile medical teams to provide healthcare and MHPSS services to people in Aleppo, Hama and Lattakia. Three of our MMUs are currently operating in Aleppo governorate, providing treatment to injured patients living in temporary shelters and camps. The majority of patients treated so far have required first aid, including dressing and treatment for minor injuries related to the earthquake. International Medical Corps has also deployed two mobile medical teams that will focus on providing emergency care and safe referrals. The teams were deployed this week to Lattakia, where they have been providing services at two different shelters in Jableh and Al Qurdaha. Our teams are also meeting with local health authorities to begin mapping healthcare needs at established shelters in Lattakia, to ensure planned activities are complementary. Based on the needs, International Medical Corps is preparing to deploy additional MMUs and mobile medical teams. The combination of roving MMUs and mobile medical teams enables International Medical Corps to remain flexible and deploy resources where they are most needed, including Aleppo, Hama and Lattakia. Our MMUs and mobile medical teams will include physicians, nurses, MHPSS case managers and administrators. By including MHPSS case managers as a core part of our MMUs and mobile medical teams, we will provide integrated and comprehensive services to communities that have been affected by the earthquake.

International Medical Corps is also continuing to operate our 24-hour MHPSS hotline, along with six centers that are providing services from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., including weekends, in Aleppo governorate. Our teams are also providing psychological first aid (PFA) training for healthcare providers, first responders and staff. As of February 19, our teams had

reached more than 700 people through these sessions. Our teams are preparing to launch 10 mobile PFA teams—comprising MHPSS, child protection, gender-based violence (GBV) and nutrition specialists—in collaboration with local partners, and six MHPSS mobile clinics that will provide individual and group psychosocial services, prevention and promotion activities, and other mental health services based on needs. We will target services to support vulnerable populations, particularly those that have been displaced and are living in shelters and camps.

Additionally, given the vast number of those that have been displaced and pre-existing food insecurity, International Medical Corps' protection team has been meeting with local authorities to discuss needs in the shelters and camps. Our GBV teams have provided psychosocial support services, skills-building and awareness-raising sessions for 166 women in women's and girls' safe spaces (WGSS) in the affected areas, and have provided case management services for more than 100 women since the earthquake. International Medical Corps' Nutrition team has focused on providing micronutrient powder sachet and micronutrition tablets, along with high energy biscuits and protein, to support displaced families in the temporary shelters. To date, the teams have provided support for nearly 450 pregnant and lactating women, children under 5, and families in camps in and around Aleppo governorate.



Damage in Antakya, Turkey, the capital of Hatay province, the region hardest hit by the earthquake in Turkey.

In **Turkey**, International Medical Corps is continuing to work with local partners and authorities to address immediate needs related to food and non-food items. In partnership with the Association of Assistance Solidarity and Support for Refugees and Asylum Seekers (MSYD-ASRA), a local humanitarian aid organization that focuses on providing basic needs and improving the living conditions for people and communities that are affected by humanitarian crises, conflicts, human rights violations and natural disasters, International Medical Corps is procuring critically needed items—including food and baby food, diapers, towels, winter clothing, blankets and hygiene kits—for internally displaced people in Hatay province, one of the hardest-hit areas in the country. Our teams have procured more than 15,000 items—including 3,000 food baskets—that are being distributed to residents in temporary shelters and camps. Further distributions are planned in the coming weeks. Additionally, International Medical Corps is working closely with MSYD-ASRA to support the oversight, management and transportation of items from their warehouses in Antakya.



In Turkey, International Medical Corps has partnered with a local organization, MSYD-ASRA, to procure and distribute essential food and non-food items to internally displaced people in Hatay Province.

International Medical Corps is also working with our local partner International Blue Crescent to provide urgent support to affected communities in Gaziantep, Kilis and Karaman, including drinking water, ready-to-eat food, nutrition packages for children, and such non-food items as hygiene kits, kitchen utensils and warm winter clothes. Together with International Blue Crescent, International Medical Corps is providing medical supplies for affected persons who suffered trauma injuries, aiding in their mobility and recovery.

In addition to the need for food and non-food items, our teams have also identified critical needs related to WASH, health (particularly the need for additional medicines and medical equipment for functioning healthcare facilities), MHPSS, PFA and protection services. Moving forward, International Medical Corps is working with local partners to assess opportunities to address these critical needs and ensure that activities are complementary to existing and planned efforts.