



Months after the quakes, infrastructure needs remain high.

It has been three months since two devastating earthquakes and a series of powerful aftershocks struck Türkiye and Syria, killing more than 50,000 people across the region, and injuring many thousands. The 7.8- and 7.5-magnitude earthquakes also destroyed critical infrastructure, leaving the communities in the area in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

Thousands of families have been left homeless after more than 160,000 buildings collapsed or were badly damaged by the quakes. According to IOM, more than 2.7 million people have been displaced in Türkiye alone due to the quakes. Most of these people now are residing in temporary settlements, half of which are considered informal, increasing the risk of disease and the need for humanitarian relief efforts to ensure that the displaced can meet their basic needs.

Tents are not proving to be an adequate solution for sheltering people, with scabies outbreaks being reported due to unsanitary conditions. In Syria, the earthquakes further damaged already impaired water infrastructure, with a higher risk of the water supply being polluted with contaminated water. Syria already had been challenged with cholera outbreaks before the earthquakes, making new levels of water contamination even more of a concern.¹

The need for healthcare support in the affected areas is critical, with millions of people displaced. Antibiotics, access to chronic disease medications, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), wound care, maternal and pediatric health, cholera treatment and clean water are some of the top reported needs.² As time progresses, mental health needs are increasing and MHPSS becoming one of the most needed

FAST FACTS

- The earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria killed more than 50,000 people and displaced almost 6 million.

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 in 2022 provided more than 620,000 health consultations and supported 6,850 mental health cases.
- International Medical Corps worked in **Türkiye** from 2012 until 2018, with extensive programs in southern areas (including Gaziantep, Hatay, Kilis, Mersin and Sanliurfa) providing health, MHPSS, GBV, child protection, nutrition and WASH programs.

OUR RESPONSE

- In **Syria**, we are operating 11 mobile medical units and one mobile surgical team that together have provided more than 15,000 primary, emergency and surgical healthcare consultations.
- We have conducted PFA sessions in temporary accommodation shelters that have reached more than 4,000 people.
- We have delivered more than 15 metric tons of medications, medical supplies and cholera kits to support facilities in Aleppo, Hama and Lattakia, with more supplies on the way.
- In **Türkiye**, we are working with local partners to procure and distribute non-food items and provide health, mental health and food to support internally displaced people in camps and shelters.

¹ <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/humanitarian-crisis-persists-for-survivors-in-turkey-syria-after-devastating-earthquake>

² <https://www.directrelief.org/2023/03/follow-the-data-crisisready-shares-emergency-response-models-for-turkey-syria-earthquakes>

services, with particular concerns for pregnant women who have been exposed to high level of stress and are at risk of complications such as first-trimester loss.

International Medical Corps Response

In the three months since the earthquakes, International Medical Corps has been working with local authorities and partners to provide essential healthcare services to affected communities by deploying mobile medical units and teams, and procuring and distributing essential medications, consumables and supplies. Our teams have also been providing MHPSS, protection (including child protection and gender-based violence support), primary healthcare, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services.

In **Syria**—where, according to OCHA, at least 53,000 families had been displaced as of April 28—International Medical Corps is currently operating (directly or in coordination with partners) 10 mobile medical units (MMUs), has deployed a mobile surgical team providing minor and emergency surgeries, as well as referrals. The majority of consultations have been related to primary healthcare concerns such as non-communicable diseases and upper respiratory-tract infections, as well as hygiene issues related to scabies and lice.

The MMUs and mobile surgical team are currently providing services in camps and shelters for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in and around the Aleppo governorate, working with a local partner. So far, the teams have provided more than 10,000 consultations in camps and affected communities. Our teams also started supporting a physical rehabilitation facility at the beginning of April, and have delivered services to more than 200 people over the past month.

With increasing needs related to health, protection and MHPSS—particularly for those living in shelters and camps—International Medical Corps also has deployed an additional mobile medical team (MMT) for a period six months to meet health and mental health care needs in Hama and Lattakia. The MMT includes a range of specialities, including internal medicine, pediatrics, gynecology, and health education, along with pharmacists, case managers, data managers, etc. All operations are organized in coordination with local stakeholders and other UN or NGO teams, to avoid duplication of services and ensure that International Medical Corps is delivering services in shelters and areas that are the most in need.

To support functioning healthcare facilities, International Medical Corps is meeting with local authorities, physicians and administrators at public hospitals and primary healthcare facilities to identify needs to support surgeries for earthquake victims, and to address immediate gaps in supplies, medications and equipment caused by increased patient caseloads. The need for reconstructive surgery for victims is expected to increase throughout the year, as patients are stabilized. International Medical Corps is working to help one operating room in a trauma hospital in Lattakia increase its surge capacity for reconstructive surgeries by procuring and delivering critical equipment, including a ventilator, a patient monitor and an arthroscopy set.

Additionally, International Medical Corps is continuing to support the Ministry of Health (MoH) by procuring and delivering essential pharmaceuticals, medical supplies and equipment for healthcare facilities in Aleppo, Hama and Lattakia. Our team has so far delivered more than 15 metric tons of pharmaceuticals, medical supplies and cholera kits to support operating facilities in the target areas. International Medical Corps also is coordinating with the MoH to ensure that the items are distributed to facilities most in need. Our teams are procuring additional cholera kits, dignity kits, trauma supplies and consumables (including gauze and bandages), walking aids and pharmaceuticals that will be delivered to relevant locations in the coming weeks.

Given the multisectoral gaps and needs in the region, International Medical Corps' MMUs and MMTs include specialists in MHPSS, protection and nutrition to provide integrated, comprehensive support to patients. International Medical Corps is relying on MHPSS specialists and a cadre of trained community health workers (CHWs) who have been providing training in psychological first aid (PFA) and direct psychosocial support to patients seeking healthcare. Given the increased levels of stress and anxiety within the affected communities, International Medical Corps has provided four mobile PFA units with specialists in psychosocial support, child protection (CP) and gender-based violence (GBV) who are providing services to IDPs in and around the Aleppo governorate, in addition to four MHPSS mobile clinics. International Medical Corps also is continuing to operate a 24-hour MHPSS hotline, along with six centers that provide services from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., including weekends, in affected areas in the north of Syria. The mobile teams are providing free case



International Medical Corps is providing healthcare and integrated protection services in affected communities and shelters in Hama and Latakia governorates.

management, mental health consultations, community-based activities, outreach and awareness-raising, referrals and psychotropic medications to anyone in need.

International Medical Corps' GBV and CP teams also are providing group activities for and consultations to vulnerable women, adolescent girls and children currently living in temporary shelters and camps. Services include running awareness-raising sessions, providing safe spaces where children can express their fears and emotions, and distributing games and toys for children. International Medical Corps' Nutrition team is providing support to earthquake-affected communities in and around the Aleppo governorate as part of our MMUs. Over the last month, the team provided support to almost 2,000 pregnant and lactating women and children, as well as screening for malnutrition, infant and young-child feeding in emergencies sessions, and nutrition supplies.

Finally, our WASH team is working closely with local authorities and other NGOs to procure additional supplies—including drinking water, hygiene kits and dignity kits—to support IDPs living in shelters and camps. Damage to water and sewage lines because of the quakes has been reported across the affected areas, increasing the risk of disease outbreaks. To mitigate risk, our WASH teams are working closely with local authorities to install latrines, provide clean water and distribute hygiene kits.

In **Türkiye**, International Medical Corps is working with local partners to support IDPs by procuring and distributing essential non-food items, including clothing, towels, blankets, hygiene kits and drinking water, and delivering mobile primary healthcare, supplies and MHPSS services in affected areas. Through Yeryüzü Doktorları (YYD), we have established three primary healthcare facilities offering integrated mental health care services. In partnership with International Blue Crescent (IBC), International Medical Corps has distributed drinking water, nutrition packages, winter clothing and canned food in Gaziantep (Islahiye), Kahramanmaraş (Elbistan) and Kilis, and is now looking at providing physical rehabilitation activities.

In partnership with MSYD-ASRA, International Medical Corps is distributing non-food items to people in shelters, including blankets, food baskets, diapers, towels, hygiene kits and winter clothing. In partnership with DWWT, International Medical Corps is delivering mobile primary healthcare, food baskets and MHPSS services in Gaziantep, Hatay and Kahramanmaras. Since the beginning of the response, we and our partners have distributed close to 50,000 items of food baskets and non-food items, and have installed 160 sanitation facilities serving about 13,000 people living in camps in Altınöz, Antakya, Dörtyol, Hassa and Iskandarun districts in Hatay province.