On February 6, 2023, two earthquakes—7.8 and 7.5 magnitude—struck Syria and Türkiye, followed by more than 570 aftershocks over the next 24 hours.
The earthquakes resulted in:

- more than 56,000 deaths and many thousands more injured
- nearly 245,000 buildings damaged or completely destroyed
- the displacement of 5.6 million people
- an estimated $39.3 billion in damages
- further limiting of access to healthcare, with more than 170 health facilities damaged and non-functional across Syria
- further damage to water and hygiene infrastructure—increasing the risk of waterborne diseases, such as cholera
- a compounding of an ongoing complex humanitarian crisis in Syria—including a 12-year civil war, financial crisis, food insecurity, COVID-19 and yet another cholera outbreak
Before the earthquakes, more than 15 million people in Syria already were in need of assistance.

International Medical Corps has worked in Syria since 2008, providing primary healthcare and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services, distributing hygiene-related non-food items (NFIs) and training health workers.

In earthquakes-affected provinces of Türkiye, about 40% of households live below the poverty line. Rates could now rise to more than 50%.

International Medical Corps worked in Türkiye from 2012 until 2018, with extensive programs in the southern areas of Gaziantep, Hatay, Kilis, Mersin and Sanliurfa. Through the help of our valued partners, we resumed work in Türkiye within 24 hours of the quakes.
Our multi-sectoral approach encompasses:

- **Health**
- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)
- Gender-based Violence (GBV) Response and Child Protection (CP)
- Nutrition
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

**International Medical Corps is:**

- Deploying mobile medical units (MMUs) and mobile surgical teams to provide health services in camps and temporary shelters
- Increasing the capacity of health facilities in quake-affected areas by providing critically needed medicines, medical equipment (including specialized items like CT scanners), supplies and training
- Ensuring around-the-clock access to MHPSS services via a hotline, as well as other services for affected populations
- Providing specialized care and support to at-risk women and children through women’s reproductive health services and nutritional support
- Improving WASH services to lower the risk of waterborne diseases, such as cholera
Over the past six months, International Medical Corps has provided critically needed health, mental health, protection and nutrition services in Syria and Türkiye.

**OUR IMPACT**

- Procured and delivered nearly 83 metric tons of essential medicines and more than 64 tons of medical equipment and supplies
- Procured and delivered more than nine metric tons of food, potable water, blankets and kits—including cholera, hygiene and dignity kits
- Provided 286,376 primary care, emergency and surgical consultations
- Provided 1,818 mental health and 14,254 psychological first aid (PFA) consultations
- Provided 11,837 nutrition interventions to women, caregivers and children via 12 MMUs
- Provided 6,682 women, girls and children with GBV and CP services—including case management and dignity kits
- Installed 210 sanitation facilities
- Reached 13,716 people through educational and awareness-raising sessions on various health-related topics

All data in this presentation as of June 30, 2023
INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS RESPONDS

SYRIA

- Health
- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)
- Gender-based Violence (GBV) Response and Child Protection (CP)
- Nutrition
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
SYRIA

Health

Many hospitals in Syria were left non-operational due to damage from the earthquakes, severely limiting access to health services.

- Delivered more than 149 metric tons of medicines, medical equipment and supplies to support 63 health facilities
- Deployed 12 MMUs that provided 280,322 primary and emergency care consultations, as well as MHPSS, protection and nutrition services
- Deployed a mobile surgical unit to provide surgical services to 572 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in shelters and camps
- Provided 617 people with physical therapy and rehabilitation services
- Procured and distributed 120 pieces of orthopedic equipment—including crutches, wheelchairs and neck braces
- Deployed ambulance cars to transport emergency cases and facilitate referrals for people requiring specialized medical services
- Distributed essential items to 320 IDPs—including blankets, food baskets, diapers, towels, hygiene kits and winter clothing
SYRIA

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

More than 1 million people in Syria need mental health support—but the number of available psychologists is low.

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS RESPONDS

Deployed four mobile MHPSS units, providing case management, consultations, community-based activities, referrals and psychotropic medications

Conducted 3,797 individual mental health consultations

Provided specialized care to 863 people living with mental, neurological and substance-use disorders

Deployed four specialized mobile PFA units comprising psychosocial, CP and GBV specialists

Provided PFA to 14,254 IDPs in temporary accommodation centers

 Reached 1,910 women and children through MHPSS support groups and recreational activities

Provided MHPSS services to 1,429 persons with disabilities (PWD)

Continuing to operate a 24-hour MHPSS hotline in affected areas
SYRIA

Nutrition, Gender-based Violence and Child Protection

The quakes have led to food insecurity for more than 50% of the Syrian population, already suffering from 12 years of civil war. Additionally, the quakes exacerbated gender inequality and increased protection risks for children.

- Provided more than 11,400 pregnant women, caregivers and children with nutrition interventions—including counseling and relactation sessions.
- Distributed nutrition supplies to more than 7,150 women and children.
- Reached more than 10,594 children under 5 with nutrition services—including screening for malnutrition.
- Operated 12 safe spaces for women and children, providing MHPSS services, group activities, sexual and reproductive health (SRH) information, recreational activities and referrals.
- Provided 395 women and children with GBV-CP case management and GBV-SRH sessions.
- Distributed dignity kits to 2,400 women and girls.
- Supported 1,965 women, children and caregivers facing financial hardship through our individual protection fund, providing more than $126,000 in financial support.
- Hired 28 women to our local staff, increasing gender representation for the patients.
SYRIA

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Even a slight gap in access to clean water, as well as sanitation and hygiene facilities, can lead to poor health outcomes and the spread of disease, while exacerbating existing vulnerabilities.

- Provided oral rehydration solution to 69 people to prevent or cure cholera and acute watery diarrhea
- Provided clean water and distributed hygiene kits to prevent the spread of communicable diseases
- Reached 1,427 people with hygiene-related education sessions
- Distributed essential items to 320 IDPs—including blankets, food baskets, diapers, towels, hygiene kits and winter clothing
INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS RESPONDS

TÜRKIYE

- Health
- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS RESPONDS

TÜRKİYE

Health and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

The earthquakes brought both immediate and long-term health and mental health impacts to Türkiye.

- Partnered with local organizations Association of Assistance Solidarity and Support for Refugees and Asylum Seekers (MSYD-ASRA), International Blue Crescent (IBC) and Yeryüzü Doktorları (YYD) to provide health and mental health services
- Supported three primary healthcare facilities in Gaziantep, Hatay and Kahramanmaraş
- Reached 20,126 people with integrated health and MHPSS services, including primary and emergency health, physical rehabilitation and disease prevention
INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS Responds

Provided and installed 206 latrines and sanitation facilities, serving 16,280 people in eight camps in Hatay province.

Distributed 98,280 gallons of drinking water to IDPs in Gaziantep province, one of the hardest-hit areas.

Distributed essential items to 20,832 IDPs—including blankets, food baskets, diapers, towels, hygiene kits and winter coats.

TÜRKIYE

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Even a slight gap in access to clean water, as well as sanitation and hygiene facilities, can lead to poor health outcomes and the spread of disease, while exacerbating existing vulnerabilities.
Our healthcare providers regularly come across numerous cases of uncontrolled and neglected hypertension and diabetes during their work with the mobile medical units. This unfortunate situation is largely attributed to the significant economic downturn, which has made it difficult for many patients to afford treatment or access healthcare services at private clinics. The main purpose of establishing MMUs is to reach out to individuals who face various obstacles, such as long distances and financial limitations, which prevent them from accessing free healthcare facilities due to their impoverished circumstances.”

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS HEALTH PROGRAM MANAGER DESCRIBING CONDITIONS IN SYRIA
K.T., a father of four children who has been internally displaced, is a beneficiary of the MHPSS services we provided. He not only was a victim of the earthquake but also had experienced the negative impact of the civil war in Syria on his mental health. The earthquake exacerbated his trauma and worsened his mental well-being. He said, “This nightmare never ends; I still feel it is happening again and again, days and nights. I can’t handle this pain anymore. I’m too tired for that. I hear my children crying; I can do nothing for them. I can’t handle that. I feel that I have no energy to do the basic work.”

After K.T. attended individual psychosocial support sessions with our staff, he said, “The PSW listened to me. I expressed my feelings to him without fear. He gave me many techniques to deal with my emotions, and to know my options and resources. My treatment didn’t end yet, but I feel that I have control again. He reminds me that I’m not alone.”
Supporting Recovery Needs

International Medical Corps is committed to supporting recovery efforts for those affected by the earthquakes, which could take more than two years. In the coming months, International Medical Corps will continue to:

- Procure and distribute medicines, as well as specialized medical equipment—such as ventilators, patient monitors, orthopedic aids and arthroscopy sets—to support hospitals and surgical centers for long-term physical therapy and reconstructive surgery.
- Provide MHPSS to those living with anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder—including healthcare workers who responded to this crisis.
- Equip clinics with solar energy systems to increase their resiliency.
- Improve WASH infrastructure, ensuring access to safe drinking water and proper sanitation.
February 6, 2023
The ‘doomsday’ aftermath of the earthquake in Syria

February 7, 2023
Wafaa Sadek from International Medical Corps talks to Times Radio about the earthquake in Syria

February 13, 2023
What Turkey and Syria’s deadly earthquakes reveal about wealth

February 16, 2023
Turkey-Syria earthquake hits a region in crisis U.S. donors have long neglected. Will that change?
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THANK YOU

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International Medical Corps is headquartered in Los Angeles, CA, and has offices in Washington, DC; London, UK; and Split, Croatia.