



Late on September 8, a 6.8-magnitude earthquake struck central Morocco. So far, the quake has claimed the lives of more than 2,100 people, making it the deadliest the earthquake the country has seen in decades.

Source: The Guardian

On Friday, September 8, at 11:11 p.m. local time, a devastating 6.8-magnitude earthquake struck central Morocco in the High Atlas Mountains, about 45 miles (72 kilometers) southwest of Marrakech, a popular tourist destination with a population of about 840,000 people. As of September 11, the Ministry of Interior and Royal Armed Forces has reported that at least 2,497 were killed and 2,476 were injured by the quake, including more than 1,400 people in critical condition.<sup>1</sup> Most of the fatalities have been recorded in al-Haouz province, a mountainous province where more than 400,000 live. The number of fatalities is expected to rise as rescue efforts are ongoing.

Many of the villages in the Atlas Mountains foothills—where the most damage has been reported—are remote and considered hard to reach. Roads leading to these areas need to be cleared to enable rescue teams and ambulances to reach those in need. Most of the houses and buildings in these heavily affected provinces—including al-Haouz, Azilal, Chichaoua, Marrakech, Ouarzazate and Taroudant—are old and vulnerable to earthquakes. Though the exact number of damaged and destroyed buildings is unknown, it is estimated to be in the hundreds.

Government authorities, including the Royal Armed Forces, are leading rescue operations and aid delivery in the affected areas. Food, water and tents are the main needs reported so far; however, as the scale of the quake becomes clearer, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health and psychosocial support needs are expected to increase.

## International Medical Corps Response

In response to the earthquake, International Medical Corps is deploying an Advance Emergency Medical Team (EMT) to Marrakech to coordinate with government authorities, local organizations and international agencies to prioritize critical needs and establish logistics support for affected communities. Given our footprint in the region and International Medical Corps' [status as an EMT Type 1 provider](#), we have readily available staff and prepositioned supplies and equipment that

### FAST FACTS

- Late on September 8, a 6.8 magnitude earthquake struck central Morocco, about 45 miles southwest of Marrakech.
- More than 2,400 deaths have been confirmed, while injuries run into the thousands, including more than 1,400 people who are in critical condition. These numbers are expected to increase as search-and-rescue operations continue.
- More than 380,000 people have been affected by the earthquake.

### OUR RESPONSE

- International Medical Corps is deploying an Advance Emergency Medical Team (EMT) to Marrakech to coordinate with government authorities, local organizations and international agencies, prioritizing critical needs and establishing logistical support for affected communities.
- International Medical Corps' Emergency Medical Team (EMT) Type 1 Fixed team—comprising 21 trained professionals—and stock of medicines, equipment and supplies are on stand-by, ready to be deployed. The EMT Type 1 Fixed facility can treat a minimum of 100 patients per day.
- Critical needs include shelter, food, water, non-food items, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/live-blog/morocco-earthquake-live-update-death-toll-rescuers-dig-hand-rcna104322>

can be rapidly deployed if they are requested. An EMT Type 1 is a self-sufficient outpatient health facility that enables staff to treat a minimum of 100 patients per day. It is equipped to provide a range of services, including triage; basic first aid and life support; basic stabilization and referral; initial wound care; basic fracture management; outpatient pain management; minor outpatient surgical procedures; outpatient care for communicable and chronic diseases; mental health assessment and referral; and pharmacy services, among others. Prepositioned supplies and equipment include hundreds of pallets of medicines, shelters and equipment that can be rapidly deployed to support emergency and basic primary healthcare services.

Given the magnitude of the quake, International Medical Corps anticipates that there will be a need for increased health, WASH and MHPSS services. Currently, more than 2,400 people have been injured by the quake, with at least half in critical condition and receiving treatment in hospitals and other health facilities in Marrakech. Due to the threat of aftershocks, many of these facilities have moved their operations outside—requiring shelters, generators and fuel to ensure continuity of services. Additionally, there is a high likelihood that water and sanitation infrastructure sustained damage or was destroyed during the earthquake, leading to increased WASH needs for functioning facilities and households.

As recovery operations continue and the extent of damage and need continues to be assessed, International Medical Corps will work closely with public authorities and other intergovernmental organizations to ensure that our relief efforts complement ongoing and planned efforts.