



*International Medical Corps' Emergency Response Team (ERT) assesses the needs of those displaced in the rural village of Moulay Brahim, in Al Haouz.*

On Friday, September 8, a devastating 6.8 magnitude earthquake struck central Morocco, about 45 miles (72 kilometers) southwest of Marrakech. The earthquake was the most powerful Morocco had experienced in more than a century, and its deadliest since 1960. According to Moroccan authorities, at least 2,946 people have been killed and 5,674 injured by the quake, with more than 2,500 severely or critically injured. The number of injuries and fatalities is expected to rise as search-and-rescue efforts continue. Mohammed VI University Hospital in Marrakech has been overwhelmed by patients after the quake, forcing it to provide treatment outside for some patients due to lack of interior space.

Morocco's Ministry of Health and Social Protection confirmed that more than 300 tons of medicines and medical devices have been delivered to Al-Haouz province this week, with additional shipments planned by the end of this week. The national stock is anticipated to meet the needs of those injured at this time. In addition to trauma and health needs, additional areas of support requested include food and water, shelter and non-food items, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services.

Access to delivering aid currently is constrained due to road blocks caused by the earthquake, risk of landslides and existing infrastructure challenges, such as challenging terrain the mountains. Moroccan authorities are working quickly to remove blockages but last-mile efforts to remote villages remain difficult.

## International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps deployed an Emergency Response Team (ERT) to coordinate response efforts in-country with local authorities and other humanitarian organizations. Immediately following the earthquake, International Medical Corps partnered with Action for Humanity (AFH), a nonprofit organization with operational presence in Morocco, to rapidly alleviate the suffering of earthquake survivors and support the recovery and reconstruction of affected areas. In partnership with AFH, International Medical Corps is supporting the immediate needs of affected households by providing hot meals and emergency supplies. The supplies include ready-to-eat foods, including canned fish, dates, milk and cheese; hygiene supplies, including toothpaste, soap and sponges; and blankets and mattresses. As of September 14,

### FAST FACTS

- On September 8, at 11:11 pm local time, a 6.8 magnitude earthquake struck central Morocco, about 45 miles southwest of Marrakech
- The quake killed nearly 3,000 people and injured more than 5,500—numbers that are expected to increase as search-and-rescue operations continue
- The disaster was Morocco's most powerful earthquake in more than a century and its deadliest since 1960
- More than 380,000 people have been affected by the earthquake

### OUR RESPONSE

- International Medical Corps deployed an Advance Emergency Response Team (ERT) to Marrakech to coordinate with government authorities, local organizations and international agencies, to prioritize critical needs and establish supply chains needed to support affected communities
- We already have helped distribute 450 hot meals, 2,550 ready-to-eat food items, 2,550 hygiene items and 150 blankets to those affected by the earthquakes
- Critical needs include shelter, food, non-food items, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services

our response efforts include distribution of 350 hot meals, 2,550 ready-to-eat food items, 2,550 hygiene items and 205 blankets. International Medical Corps will continue to support immediate efforts to meet the urgent needs of affected communities.

We continue to seek additional local partnerships, particularly those that can provide mobile health services in remote and hard-to-reach areas. Priority mobile activities include primary healthcare, MHPSS services and the provision of critical items to support those displaced.

International Medical Corps is exploring interventions that would provide primary healthcare in remote areas where health services are currently not accessible. In addition to physical healthcare, MHPSS services are in great need. International Medical Corps is prioritizing the provinces of Al Houz, Chichaoua and Taroudant in our early response efforts.

Finally, the infrastructure destroyed in the earthquakes has left the affected population exposed to contaminated water and harsh environmental elements. Many people displaced are in temporary settlements, increasing the need for latrines and hygiene items, to promote dignity and reduce transmission of communicable diseases that often result from the consumption of compromised water sources after a disaster. Many people have left remote villages and are living in temporary shelters—mainly tents—providing minimal warmth. International Medical Corps has agreed to support local settlements by procuring and distributing blankets.