ONE-YEAR UPDATE

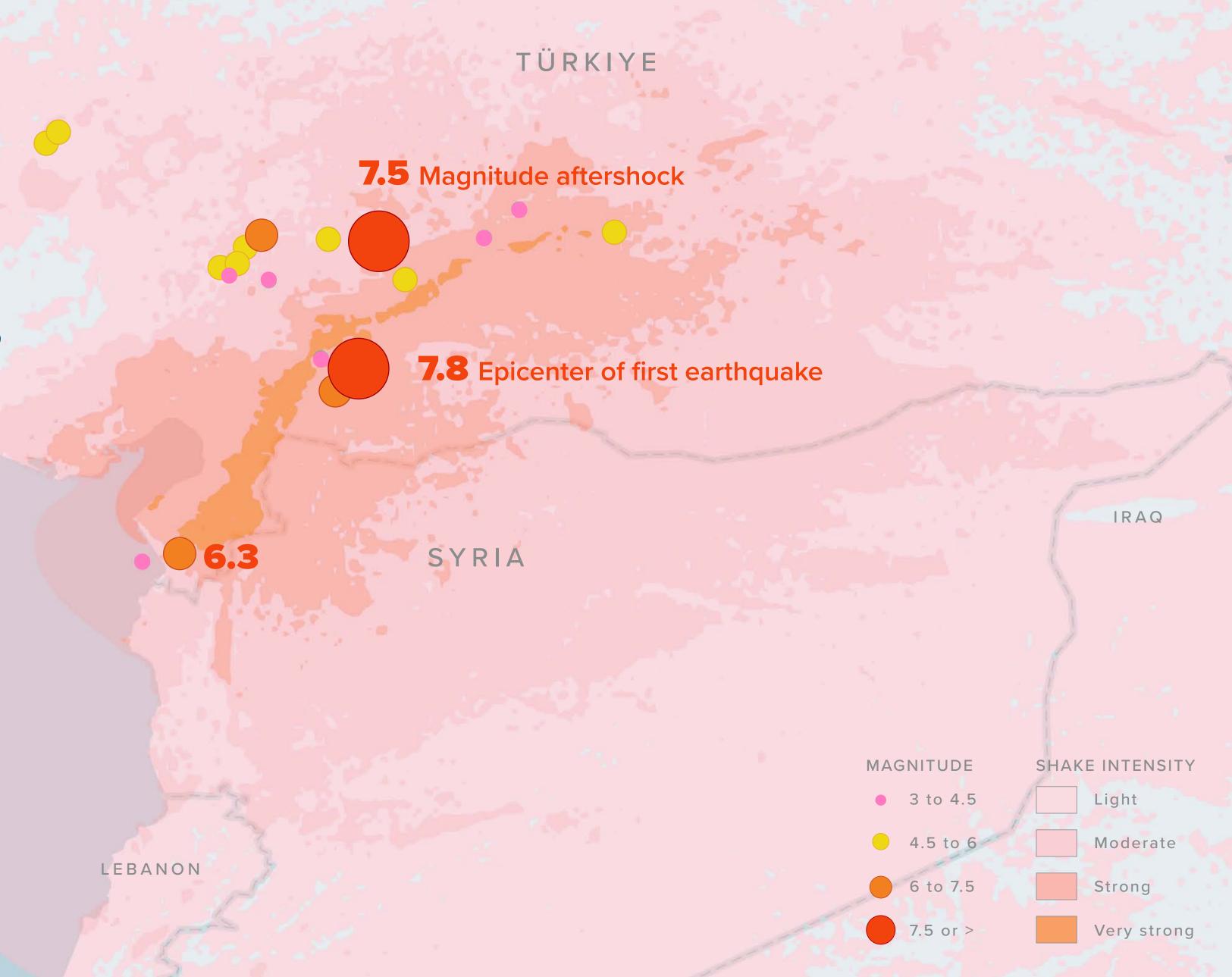
# SYRIA & TÜRKIYE EARTHQUAKES RESPONSE

International Medical Corps



## **EMERGENCY OVERVIEW**

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.



## **EMERGENCY OVERVIEW**

# 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



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

# SYRIA

Before the earthquakes, more than 15 million people in Syria already were in need of assistance—that number has increased to more than 16.5 million.



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.

# TÜRKIYE

A year later, more than 50% of the earthquake-affected people of Türkiye are still in need of humanitarian aid.



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 valued partners, we resumed work in Türkiye within 24 hours of the quakes.

#### **EMERGENCY OVERVIEW**

# OUR APPROACH

## Our multi-sectoral approach encompasses



Health



Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)



Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation (PTR)



Gender-based Violence (GBV) Prevention and Response, and Child Protection (CP)



**Nutrition** 



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)





### **International Medical Corps is:**

- Operating mobile medical units (MMUs) and mobile surgical teams to provide health services in camps and temporary shelters
- Supporting health facilities in quake-affected areas by providing critically needed medicines, medical equipment (including such specialized items as MRI software and CT scanners), supplies and training
- Ensuring around-the-clock access to trauma care, MHPSS services (via a hotline) and other services for affected populations
- Providing specialized care and support to vulnerable women and children through GBV, CP, women's reproductive health services and nutritional support
- Improving WASH services to lower the risk of waterborne diseases, such as cholera

# OUR IMPACT

Over the past year, International Medical Corps has provided critically needed health, mental health, protection, nutrition and WASH services in Syria and Türkiye.



- Procured and delivered 285,233 items of food, water, blankets and kits—including cholera, hygiene and dignity kits
- Provided 422,410 emergency, primary care, outpatient and surgical consultations
- Provided 35,873 mental health and 24,074 psychological first-aid (PFA) consultations
- Provided 41,722 nutrition interventions to women, caregivers and children
- Provided 18,823 women, girls and children with GBV and CP services—including case management and dignity kits
- Installed 312 sanitation facilities
  - Reached 68,809 people through training and capacity building on various health-related topics





# 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.

#### **Mobile Medical Units**

Providing continuous primary care and integrated health services through MMUs for people in Aleppo, Hama and Latakia governates—including IDPs living in camps and shelters

- Deployed 24 MMUs that provided health consultations, as well as MHPSS, protection and nutrition services
- Deployed a mobile surgical unit to provide surgical services to 813 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in shelters and camps
- Delivered 393,769 emergency, outpatient, primary and surgical consultations





**SYRIA** 

# Health

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

#### Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation (PTR) Services

The infrastructure damage caused by the earthquakes led to serious injuries that required both emergency care and PTR (orthopedic stabilization, physical therapy sessions, training of caregivers and provision of mobility aids)

- Deployed 10 PTR MMUs and established three static PTR facilities
- Provided 5,574 people with physical therapy and rehabilitation services
- Procured and distributed 1,754 pieces of orthopedic equipment—including crutches, wheelchairs and neck braces
- Trained 2,659 caregivers on how best to assist family members and friends with disabilities





**SYRIA** 

# Health

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

#### **Health System Support**

Supporting local health facilities that are still functioning after the quakes

- Delivered more than 9.6 million items of medicines, medical equipment and supplies to support 87 health facilities
- Equipped an operating room and a maternity ward at Al-Razi Hospital, and an operating room at the National Hospital in Latakia
- Deployed 10 ambulances to support referrals for 4,641 people requiring specialized medical services
- Distributed more than 92,000 NFIs to 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.

- Deployed 16 mobile MHPSS units and supported seven static MHPSS facilities, providing case management, consultations, community-based activities, referrals and psychotropic medications
- Conducted 24,757 individual mental health consultations
- Provided specialized care to 3,595 people living with mental, neurological and substance-use disorders
- Deployed 15 specialized mobile PFA units comprising psychosocial, CP and GBV specialists
- Provided PFA to 16,898 IDPs in temporary accommodation centers
- Reached 2,528 women and children through MHPSS support groups and recreational activities
- Trained 726 health workers on how to promote positive mental health habits among patients
- Continue to operate a 24-hour MHPSS hotline in affected areas—reaching almost 500 people so far





# FROM THE FIELD

In the aftermath of devastating earthquakes, 13-year-old Muhammad Nour Ahmed's life took an unimaginable turn. Displaced during the war in Aleppo, he already faced immense challenges—which were further compounded by the earthquake's impact, when he lost his hearing aid amid the chaos of the quake.

Muhammad was diagnosed with hearing problems at the age of 5, and relied on his hearing aid to fully function in school and society. Though its loss was discouraging, hope was reignited when an International Medical Corps pediatrician was able to quickly identify his need and—with the generous support of our donors—prescribe a new hearing aid after an audiometry test.

This gift not only restored Muhammad's hope but also restored opportunities, enabling him to continue his education and fully participate in the conversations around him in everyday life. His story showcases the true value of a helping hand and the profound impact it can have on someone's life.





#### **SYRIA**

# Nutrition, Gender-based Violence and Child Protection

The quakes have led to food insecurity for more than 50% of the Syrian population. Additionally, the quakes exacerbated gender inequality and increased protection risks for children.

- Provided 41,722 pregnant women, caregivers and children with nutrition interventions—including counselling and relactation sessions
- Distributed nutrition supplies to 21,313 women and children
- Operated 10 safe spaces for women and children, providing MHPSS services, group activities, sexual and reproductive health (SRH) information, recreational activities and referrals
- Provided 1,475 women and children with GBV-CP case management and GBV-SRH sessions
- Distributed 8,115 dignity kits to 5,470 women and girls
- Reached 630 youth through our Youth Empowerment Programs and 461 adolescent girls with life-skills sessions
- Reached 3,740 women and girls through GBV awareness-raising sessions, covering topics such as safe maternity practices, nurturing positive relationships with parents and peers, decisionmaking skills and prevention of child marriage
- Supported 3,950 women, children and caregivers facing financial hardship through our individual protection fund, providing \$198,517 in financial support





**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.

- Installed eight latrines and sanitation facilities, serving 1,148 people at one IDP camp
- Provided more than 907,000 liters of clean water and distributed 300 hygiene kits to prevent the spread of communicable diseases
- Provided oral rehydration solution to 8,647 people to prevent or cure cholera and acute watery diarrhea
- Reached 11,633 people with hygiene-related education sessions







## TÜRKIYE

# Health

Partnered with local organizations, including the 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.

- Delivered 23,663 items of medicines, medical equipment and supplies to the three primary health facilities supported in Gaziantep, Hatay and Kahramanmaraş
- Provided 28,641 health consultations—including first aid, emergency care and disease prevention
- Deployed four PTR MMUs and provided 1,016 people with physical therapy and rehabilitation services in Gaziantep, Hatay and Kahramanmaraş
- Procured and distributed 78 pieces of orthopedic equipment—including crutches, wheelchairs and neck braces
- Trained 449 caregivers on how best to assist family members and friends with disabilities, and provided training





#### TÜRKIYE

# Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

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

- Reached 22,454 people with integrated health and MHPSS services—including primary and emergency healthcare, physical rehabilitation and disease prevention
- Provided MHPSS consultations for 9,911 people
- Reached 10,180 children through support groups and recreational activities
- Created five safe spaces for children and adolescents to interact with each other and express emotions through creative arts and physical activities
- Reached 8,980 people through psychoeducation sessions





## TÜRKIYE

# Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Services

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.

- Installed 304 latrines and sanitation facilities, serving 18,305 people in eight camps in Hatay province
- Distributed 98,280 liters of drinking water to IDPs in Gaziantep province, one of the hardest-hit areas
- Distributed essential items to 2,150 to IDPs, including blankets, food baskets, diapers, towels, hygiene and water purifications kits, and winter coats





# FROM THE FIELD

Ahmed is a 59-year-old father of four children. He lived in Germany for 10 years and returned to Türkiye in 2006. He currently lives in Altınözü, Hatay province. Ahmed began to experience some neurological problems while working as a laborer in Germany under stressful and severe working conditions and was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. He decided to return to Türkiye because he would have easier access to healthcare, which he could not access in Germany. Ahmed also previously had suffered from kidney failure and was able to receive a lifesaving kidney transplant from his mother. Unfortunately, these health problems have shaken him economically and psychologically.

After the earthquakes Ahmed became isolated and stopped complying with his treatment plan. Unable to leave the house due to Parkinson's disease—he falls occasionally while walking, due to balance problems—Ahmed began to work with a physiotherapy team from International Medical Corps partner MSYD, who gave Ahmed balance and musclestrengthening training, and provided him with a walking stick. Thanks to the physiotherapy he received, he soon began to feel better both physically and psychologically, and was once again able to leave his home and continue his life.





# **Long-Term Support**

A year after the earthquakes, Syria and Türkiye still face a long road to recovery. International Medical Corps is committed to continue supporting those affected.





- Procure and distribute medicines, as well as specialized medical equipment—such as ventilators, patient monitors, orthopedic aids and arthroscopy sets—to support the ability of hospitals and surgical centers to provide long-term physical therapy and reconstructive surgery
- Provide MHPSS to those living with anxiety, depression and posttraumatic stress disorder, including healthcare workers who responded to this crisis
- Collaborate with local authorities and public health facilities to rebuild and reinforce healthcare at primary, secondary and tertiary levels
- Strengthen community-based protection structures to enhance access to GBV and CP services for women, girls and boys
- Equip clinics with solar energy systems, to increase their resiliency
- Improve WASH infrastructure, ensuring access to safe drinking water and proper sanitation

# MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



The 'doomsday' aftermath of the earthquake in Syria



Wafaa Sadek from
International Medical
Corps talks to Times
Radio about the
earthquake in Syria



Turkey-Syria earthquake hits a region in crisis U.S. donors have long neglected. Will that change?



Gilead Foundation
Donating \$1 Million
for Relief Efforts
in Türkiye and Syria



Revisiting Syria after the quakes



Remaking Turkey:
Inside the biggest
rebuilding project on
earth

HOW TO HELP LISTS





























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as well as the thousands of generous individuals who supported our response.











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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.

