



*International Medical Corps' Emergency Response Team Medical Coordinator meets with a member of the Scouts of Morocco at the distribution in Falghous.*

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 confirmed killed by the quake, and 5,674 injured, with more than 2,500 of those severely or critically injured.

Moroccan regions that experienced the most damage are those that include villages in remote areas. Fallen debris, damaged roads and mountainous terrain are restricting access to these communities – stranding survivors and leaving them without access to shelter, food and basic supplies needed to survive, as well as healthcare and other essential services. Prior to the earthquakes, rural areas had limited access to healthcare services and the quake has compounded pre-existing barriers to care.

Given the high number of people left in critical condition from the quake, responders and providers have had to prioritize patients requiring advanced care, focusing on transport via ambulance or helicopter, or referral to secondary healthcare facilities. The lack of access to basic emergency and primary healthcare services has left many patients neglected, particularly those suffering from minor trauma and wound care. Furthermore, remote communities affected by the quake are showing signs of severe psychological trauma. Fears related to further aftershocks, grief over lost loved ones, and the stress of isolation and delayed search-and-rescue and relief efforts have left survivors visibly distressed.

### FAST FACTS

- On September 8, a 6.8 magnitude earthquake struck central Morocco, about 45 miles southwest of Marrakech
- Nearly 3,000 people are confirmed dead, with injuries numbering more than 5,500—figures 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 350 hot meals, 2,550 ready-to-eat food items, 5,950 hygiene items, 605 blankets and 550 mattresses
- Critical needs include shelter, food, non-food items, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services

## International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps has expanded efforts to distribute critical supplies and deliver essential services to remote and hard-to-reach populations.

The need for shelter and non-food items is particularly pressing, as thousands of people are estimated to have been displaced as a result of the quake and damage to infrastructure is severe. Lack of temporary, collective shelters is also leading to overcrowding, with many households sleeping in the open air. In partnership with Action for Humanity (AFH), International Medical Corps is continuing to support the needs of affected households by providing hot meals and emergency supplies. The team visited the locality of Falghous to host a three-day distribution for 10 surrounding villages. 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 20, our response efforts included distribution of 350 hot meals, 2,550 ready-to-eat food items, 5,950 hygiene items, 705 blankets and 550 mattresses.

In the days following the earthquake, our local partners carried out needs assessments in the villages surrounding the epicenter of the quake. The immediate needs identified include primary health consultations, mental health consultations and the distribution of non-food and shelter items. To address these urgent needs, International Medical Corps is partnering with civil society organizations to support the deployment of mobile medical units (MMUs) to provide health consultations in highly affected areas, including Taroudant province, where some of the heaviest damage has been recorded. Our team is also working to help our partners and the Ministry of Health refine a standard list of pharmaceuticals to be available in each of the MMUs. In addition to providing support from MMUs, our teams will procure and distribute medical supplies and equipment to support both MMUs and functioning health facilities, ensuring continuity of care in the wake of the crisis.

To expand on our existing shelter activities, International Medical Corps is also developing local partnerships to distribute family hygiene kits, family tents, solar kits, plastic sheeting, and winter clothing and shoes to support affected families. In addition to these efforts, International Medical Corps is working with local partners to continue prioritizing health, mental health and protection services to provide an integrated package of support to help safeguard affected communities and provide critically needed services in the immediate aftermath of the disaster.



*Blankets, mattresses and hygiene kits wait to be distributed, along with other items in Falghous that will reach up to 3,000 people.*