



International Medical Corps' partner Action for Humanity positions a truck of food and hygiene items in a village in Taroudant province.

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 2,940 people have been confirmed killed by the quake, and 5,500 injured, with more than 2,500 of those severely or critically injured.¹

Nearly 60,000 homes were damaged in the quake, approximately one-third of which were completely destroyed.² Ultimately, more than 500,000 people were displaced as a result of the quake.³ Many of those living in temporary accommodations are staying in tents in encampments without plumbing or electricity. In some camps, up to 40 people have been reported to be sleeping in a single tent. The overcrowding and lack of proper hygiene have resulted in skin infections in those in camps.

The large number of displaced people and the inability to reach these locations have made it difficult to meet basic needs, including lack of clothing, proper shelter materials, and hygiene products and facilities. As humanitarian organizations continue to work to meet these needs, they face ongoing logistical challenges, including traffic congestion and pre-existing limited infrastructure.

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 500,000 people have been internally displaced

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 have helped distribute 350 hot meals, 2,550 ready-to-eat food items, 7,650 hygiene items, 705 blankets and 550 mattresses, with more distributions planned for the coming weeks
- Critical needs include shelter, food, non-food items, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services

¹ <https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2023/09/357684/morocco-earthquake-new-zealand-donates-1-million>

² <https://www.reuters.com/business/finance/banking-group-iff-proceed-with-annual-meeting-earthquake-hit-morocco-2023-09-25>

³ <https://reliefweb.int/report/morocco/morocco-earthquake-september-2023-situation-report-4-26-september>

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.

International Medical Corps is partnering with the Moroccan Association of Solidarity and Development (AMSED), a civil society organization, the Moroccan Ministry of Health, and Maroc Solidarité Médico-Sociale (MS2). International Medical Corps is supporting mobile medical units (MMUs) in the Taroudant and Al-Houz provinces in partnership with these organizations. This past week, one MMU served five villages in Taroudant province and delivered 415 health consultations and 29 mental health consultations. In addition, the MMU distributed 100 family hygiene kits, 50 tents and solar electric kits to support four communities. By integrating health services, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and distributions, International Medical Corps helps to ensure hard-to-reach communities have access to multiple services at once. In addition to the MMU in Taroudant, the team also deployed an MMU to Al Houz. This MMU provides mental health consultations and will begin primary health and hygiene education activities in the coming week.



International Medical Corps' Emergency Response Team Lead facilitates distribution efforts alongside our local partners.

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. As of October 2, our response efforts have included the distribution of 300 hot meals, 2,550 ready-to-eat food items, 7,650 hygiene items, 705 blankets and 550 mattresses.



Mattresses are provided to internally displaced persons in temporary accommodations and shelters.

International Medical Corps partnered with the European Committee for Education and Agriculture (CEFA) and Cesvi, a development non-profit, to procure and deliver essential non-food items to support affected communities while strengthening and increasing access to health, mental health and safeguarding services. Through this partnership, we will distribute family hygiene kits, winterization and shelter kits, and winter clothing and shoes to affected families. This past week, our team prepared winterization kits for distribution, sourcing critical floor and roof insulation materials. Additional items to be procured include blankets, mattresses, cooking utensils and hygiene supplies.