



On November 27, armed opposition groups led by Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) launched a large scale offensive against the government of Syria. The offensive rapidly captured major cities, beginning with Aleppo, and quickly advanced toward Hama and Homs. By December 8, the opposition forces entered Damascus, triggering the fall of President Bashar al-Assad.

In northeast Syria, the security situation remains volatile, with frequent shifts in control around the western bank of the Euphrates River, particularly in Deir-ez-Zor. The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) have withdrawn to the eastern side of the river, enabling HTS to gain control over parts of the city. This shift in power dynamics continues to fuel tensions and violence, as various groups vie for influence in the region.

The ongoing conflict has significantly increased the number of displaced people in Syria. As of December 12, OCHA reported that 1.1 million people had been newly displaced, with the majority being women and children. Aleppo governorate saw the largest number of displacements, with nearly 640,000 people fleeing the area, followed by 334,000 people leaving Idlib and 136,000 leaving Hama. More than 438,000 people have sought refuge in Idlib, 170,000 in Hama and 123,000 in rural Damascus.¹

Before these events, approximately 3.5 million people were already displaced in northern Syria, with 4.2 million requiring humanitarian protection and assistance. Overall, about 16.5 million people across the country are in need of aid. Protection needs have surged, particularly for vulnerable populations, including both pre-existing and newly displaced communities. The recent displacement primarily affects women and children fleeing from regions such as Aleppo, Hama, Homs and Idlib. Challenges in delivering humanitarian aid have been exacerbated by transportation disruptions and reports of

FAST FACTS

- A large scale offensive led by Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) resulted in the collapse of the government of Bashar al-Assad.
- 1.1 million people have been displaced, predominantly women and children. Over half of those displaced are from Aleppo.
- Idlib has received the largest influx, with 438,000 people arriving in the governorate.
- Humanitarian needs have surged, particularly in health, nutrition, protection, and water, sanitation and hygiene.

OUR FOOTPRINT

- International Medical Corps has been operating in Syria since 2008.
- Currently active in 12 governorates, we support nine hospitals, 23 primary healthcare centers, 23 mobile medical units (MMUs), five specialized healthcare facilities, seven protection facilities, two MHPSS facilities, one family center and one community center.
- Between January and November 2024, we have reached 1.6 million people with 3,022,189 health consultations, and provided 115,965 nutrition services, 110,000 WASH services, 64,366 protection services and 60,228 MHPSS services.

OUR RESPONSE

- International Medical Corps is addressing the emergency by:
 - operating 21 MMUs offering primary healthcare and MHPSS services;
 - facilitating transfers of emergency cases, through associated ambulances, to five hospitals supported by us; and
 - procuring 1,200 hygiene kits and 800 dignity kits to promote hygiene and reduce the risk of disease among displaced populations.
- Since December 2, International Medical Corps has provided 1,038 health consultations, including 189 sexual and reproductive health consultations, and distributed 23,570 stocks of medications.

¹ [OCHA: Syrian Arab Republic Flash Update No. 5](#)

looting of civilian properties and humanitarian supplies. Vital infrastructure has been heavily damaged, further exacerbating the humanitarian crisis. Healthcare facilities, including hospitals and clinics, have been closed or severely disrupted. Health sectors in several locations have reported significant disruptions. In Hama, 13 primary healthcare centers (PHCs) were suspended. In Homs, 20 PHCs are partially functioning, while another 20 are completely non-functional. Four hospitals in Homs are partially operational, while five have ceased functioning entirely. In Aleppo, 27 hospitals were suspended as a result of the clashes, with Aleppo University Hospital and Al Razi Hospital being overwhelmed with patients and in need of support. Access to essential services, such as water, sanitation and electricity, remains limited, further straining already vulnerable populations.

International Medical Corps Response

Since 2008, International Medical Corps has established a strong operational presence across Syria, working in all governorates providing critical health, nutrition, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), child protection, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services to vulnerable populations. As of November, International Medical Corps had provided vital support to more than 1.6 million people.

International Medical Corps delivers a range of health and nutrition services, including primary and secondary care, pediatric care, sexual and reproductive health and nutritional screenings. In MHPSS and protection, we offer case management, vocational skills training and psychosocial support, utilizing both our own and public health facilities, women's and girls' safe spaces, family centers and community hubs. Our mobile medical teams ensure that services reach people in hard-to-reach areas. From January to November 2024, we have provided 3,022,189 health consultations, provided nutrition services to 115,965 people, helped 110,000 people with WASH services, reached 64,366 people with protection services and supported 60,228 people with MHPSS services.



International Medical Corps staff treat a girl at one of our mobile medical units in Lattakia.

In response to the escalating hostilities, shifting control and mass displacement, International Medical Corps—in collaboration with local partners, health committees and departments of health—has been actively coordinating a robust emergency response to address the urgent healthcare and humanitarian needs of affected populations.

Before the recent conflict, International Medical Corps supported vulnerable populations in hard-to-reach areas through 12 mobile medical units (MMUs) operating across seven governorates in southern and central Syria, including Aleppo, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Dara'a, Hama, Homs and Latakia. In response to the latest wave of mass displacement, these units have been strategically deployed to address the urgent needs of newly displaced populations. Since December 2, International Medical Corps established and deployed a further nine MMUs to provide healthcare services to internally displaced persons (IDPs) at hosting facilities and surrounding areas. These units are strategically stationed across high-need locations, including: two in Tabqa (Abo Asi Crossing and Tabqa Stadium), two at Raqqa Stadium (where IDPs are being hosted), one in Kobane, two in Idlib and two in Aleppo. International Medical Corps plans to deploy an additional five MMUs in Aleppo, Idlib and Raqqa later this week.

The mobile units offer a broad range of primary healthcare services specifically tailored to meet both general medical needs and the unique health requirements of women. This includes comprehensive prenatal and postnatal care aimed at supporting safe pregnancies, childbirth and maternal health. Additionally, the units are equipped to provide essential wound care, minor surgical interventions for injuries and the administration of critical medications to treat both acute and chronic conditions. Preventive healthcare measures, such as immunizations and health education, are also integrated into the mobile services, to enhance overall community health and minimize the spread of disease.

In addition to mobile healthcare, we are providing critical support through ambulance services that transport patients requiring specialized care to nearby healthcare facilities, some of which are supported by International Medical Corps, such as Al Zahawri, Tabqa, Tabqa Maternity, Raqqa National and Raqqa Paediatric hospitals. This ambulance service plays a crucial role in the healthcare response by enhancing the referral process and ensuring that patients in need of urgent care can access timely medical treatment, reducing the risk of complications and saving lives.

To further mitigate the public health risks posed by the displacement crisis, International Medical Corps is in the process of distributing 1,200 hygiene kits and 800 dignity kits in high-influx reception areas for IDPs, where the demand for

sanitation supplies is particularly high. These essential items will reduce the risk of communicable diseases, promote better hygiene practices, and improve the overall living conditions for vulnerable displaced populations.

Since the beginning of its response to this crisis, International Medical Corps has provided 1,038 health consultations, including 189 sexual and reproductive health consultations, and distributed 23,570 medications. Our comprehensive, multi-faceted healthcare response continues to evolve in coordination with local authorities and other humanitarian partners, aiming to address immediate healthcare needs while contributing to longer-term recovery efforts in Syria's most affected regions.