

# Syria

## **Facing a persistent conflict since 2011, Syria continues to experience a severe humanitarian crisis.**

16.5 million people across the country are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance—including 7.2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), one of the highest rates globally. The November 2024 offensive that resulted in the collapse of Bashar al-Assad's government has further exacerbated displacement, with 11 million people—predominantly women and children—forced to flee. This escalation has significantly increased

humanitarian needs—particularly in health, nutrition, protection, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

International Medical Corps has maintained a robust operational presence in Syria since 2008, and currently is active in 12 of the country's 14 governorates. We provide essential health and multi-sectoral services, supporting nine hospitals, 23 primary healthcare centers, 23 mobile medical units, five specialized healthcare facilities, seven protection centers, two mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) centers, one family center and one community center.





Between January and November 2024, International Medical Corps:



provided healthcare services to about **1.1 million** people



conducted nutritional screenings for approximately **230,000** people



delivered MHPSS services to almost **30,000** people



offered protection services to about **50,000** people



supported **110,000** people with WASH services

International Medical Corps operates in 12 governorates across Syria, including Aleppo, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Dara'a, Deir ez-Zor, Hama, Hassakeh, Homs, Idleb, Latakia, Raqqa and Tartous. We support a network of hospitals, primary healthcare centers, mobile medical units, specialized healthcare facilities, protection centers, MHPSS facilities, a family center and a community center.

Through these facilities, International Medical Corps provides integrated services, including health, nutrition, physical therapy rehabilitation, MHPSS, child protection (CP), gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and support, and WASH services. Our staff members number almost 750 staff, and we support more than 1,400 health staff—including doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers—at facilities we work with.





## HEALTHCARE

The prolonged conflict and events of November 2024 severely damaged Syria's healthcare system. Many hospitals and clinics have been destroyed, while the remaining health facilities struggle with severe shortages of supplies, equipment and qualified personnel. Deteriorating socioeconomic conditions and environmental pressures have further strained the health system's capacity, leading to a rise in waterborne diseases and critically worsening the nutritional status of children, pregnant women and lactating mothers, deepening the public health crisis.

International Medical Corps operates 23 primary healthcare clinics and 23 mobile medical units (MMUs) across several governorates, including Aleppo, Al Hassakeh, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Dara'a, Deir ez-Zor, Hama, Homs, Idlib, Latakia and Raqqa. Through these facilities, we provide free and comprehensive primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare services, including specialized care such as obstetric, neonatal and pediatric care, physiotherapy, sexual and reproductive health, capacity building and referrals to partner hospitals.

In addition to routine care, we strengthen healthcare infrastructure by supplying essential medical equipment and supplies, including critical donations to public hospitals and support for operating theaters. We have installed 32 solar systems at various facilities, improving service delivery and ensuring a sustainable source of electricity for continued operations.

Following the events of November 2024 and the resulting mass displacement, International Medical Corps deployed 21 MMUs to provide a comprehensive range of primary healthcare services, including the specific health requirements of women, such as prenatal and postnatal care to support safe pregnancies, childbirth and maternal health. Our teams also are bolstering healthcare facilities and facilitating patient referrals through ambulance services to hospitals such as Raqqa National Hospital, Tabqa Maternity Hospital in the northeast and Al Zahrawi Hospital in the northwest.

International Medical Corps remains committed to supporting and strengthening Syria's public health system. Through our ongoing efforts, we aim to build a resilient foundation for the continuous delivery of medical care, ensuring that the health system can withstand both current challenges and future crises.

## NUTRITION

Conflict has significantly exacerbated poverty levels in Syria, making it increasingly difficult for people to afford basic necessities. As a result, malnutrition levels continue to rise across the country. The prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) has tripled over the past five years, increasing from 1.7% in 2019 to 4.7% in 2024.

International Medical Corps is dedicated to preventing and treating malnutrition, with a particular focus on vulnerable populations such as children under 5, pregnant and lactating women (PLWs), and adolescents. We are conducting nutritional screening at 26 facilities across Aleppo, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Dara'a, Hama, Homs, Idleb and Latakia governorates, and providing treatment services through targeted supplementary feeding programs and community-based management of malnutrition clinics offering nutritional supplements to children and PLWs suffering from severe and moderate acute malnutrition.



Between January and November 2024, we admitted and treated 2,870 PLWs and children for moderate acute malnutrition, and 251 children for severe acute malnutrition. These efforts are essential in addressing the escalating malnutrition crisis in Syria.

## MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

An estimated 12.5 million Syrians need MHPSS, with women, children and adolescents being particularly vulnerable. The prolonged crisis has led to widespread trauma, including high levels of psychological distress, GBV and disrupted social structures. These needs are likely to be further exacerbated by the events of November 2024.

In response to these challenges, International Medical Corps integrates MHPSS into its comprehensive healthcare services. We prioritize both the prevention and treatment of mental health and psychosocial issues, offering a range of support services designed to address the specific needs of affected individuals and communities. Our interventions include case management, individual and group counseling, psychological first aid, psychiatric consultations and psychotherapy. Additionally, we provide structured psychotherapy groups for people suffering from chronic illnesses, as well as referrals to specialized care when needed.

Recognizing the importance of community-based support, International Medical Corps also focuses on building resilience through community outreach and awareness activities. We distribute dignity kits, offer parental-skills training and create safe spaces for vulnerable groups, particularly women and children. These safe spaces offer a supportive environment where people can access critical psychological support and engage in group activities that promote healing and social cohesion.

Our MHPSS services are designed to be inclusive and responsive to the diverse needs of all genders and age groups. These services are delivered at various locations, including women's and girls' safe spaces, MHPSS centers, community center, family centers and MMUs, ensuring that we reach those in need across different regions and communities.

## PROTECTION

The crisis has caused profound and lasting trauma to families, subjecting them to high levels of violence, psychological distress and safety hazards. Nearly 15.8 million people—especially women and children—in Syria need protection. The conflict has not only caused widespread displacement but also led to the breakdown of social structures, leaving many without access to basic services and security. Women and children—who make up a significant portion of the displaced population—are often exposed to heightened risks of GBV, exploitation and abuse, further compounding their vulnerability.

To address these issues, we provide specialized services in CP and GBV that are deeply interlinked and integrated with our health and MHPSS services.

Our CP services help children who are at risk or victims of violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation, child marriage and child labor, or of being separated or unaccompanied. Some of the projects we implement include case management services, individual counselling, parenting-skills sessions, psychosocial support, youth empowerment projects, psychological first aid and safe spaces.

Because women and girls are especially susceptible to GBV in conflict-affected areas, we deliver awareness-raising sessions, safe spaces, case management services, psychosocial support, emotional support groups, recreational activities (parenting-skills sessions, youth empowerment projects, social and behavioral change programs), capacity building for local partners and more.

Between January and November 2024, we reached 19,456 children with protection services and 29,548 people with GBV services.

## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

15.9 million people in Syria need WASH assistance, with limited funding further exacerbating the crisis. Syria's water systems have been severely damaged, and public services are under immense strain due to the ongoing conflict. The destruction of infrastructure, combined with the compounded effects of displacement, has left many communities without access to



safe and reliable water sources. The growing number of IDPs residing in temporary shelters and camps has worsened the situation, creating overcrowded and unsanitary conditions. These factors have contributed to frequent outbreaks of cholera and other waterborne diseases, adding further strain to an already fragile healthcare system.

International Medical Corps' WASH programs focus on providing reliable access to clean water, improving sanitation and promoting safe hygiene practices across refugee camps, communities, schools and health facilities. For example, we have improved access to water for 110,000 people in three communities in Hama that depend on the Al-Luwaiba pumping station for drinking water.

## TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

International Medical Corps conducts training for frontline health and protection workers helping to foster self-reliance among populations affected by Syria's crises. Between January and November 2024, we provided training to 4,976 people, including 42 people trained in maternal, newborn and reproductive health, 1,241 in general health and clinical management, 1,341 in GBV, 279 in CP, 1,860 in MHPSS, 190 in WASH and IPC, and 220 in nutrition and food security.



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A pre-eminent first responder since 1984, International Medical Corps delivers emergency medical and related services to those affected by conflict, disaster and disease, no matter where they are, no matter what the conditions. We also train people in their communities, providing them with the skills they need to recover, chart their own path to self-reliance and become effective first responders themselves.

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