



An International Medical Corps MMU visits Raqqa Pediatric Hospital.

Following a peak displacement of 1.1 million since late November, recorded on December 12, followed by approximately 486,000 returning to their areas of origin, more than 614,000 people remain displaced across Syria. Meanwhile, around 25,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) remain housed in more than 180 collective centers in northeast Syria, where they face inadequate access to water, sanitation and privacy.

Hostilities persist across several regions of Syria, including in Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor, Hama, Homs, Latakia, Quneitra, Rural Damascus and Tartous, as well as in the vicinity of the Tishreen Dam, which has been non-operational for nearly two weeks. The continued conflict has significantly disrupted essential services and humanitarian activities.

Nationwide fuel shortages are compounding the crisis. In Aleppo governorate, these shortages have left six public hospitals and 60 primary health centers (PHCs) operating at reduced capacity, jeopardizing the provision of vital healthcare services.

Syria's healthcare system faces an impending crisis, as 141 health facilities are projected to experience funding shortages by the end of the year. This will exacerbate an already fragile situation marked by an overwhelming surge in patients and severe deficits in medical supplies, pharmaceuticals and healthcare personnel. Supply-chain disruptions and an urgent need for mobile medical teams to provide trauma care are further compounding the challenges.

Rising cases of influenza-like illnesses and severe acute respiratory infections have been observed with the onset of winter, particularly in northern Aleppo and Idleb. Harsh winter conditions are exacerbating the vulnerabilities of displaced populations living in overcrowded camps with inadequate insulation and heating. These challenges are compounded by widespread food insecurity.

FAST FACTS

- Hostilities continue across key regions of Syria, disrupting essential services, halting most humanitarian operations in Latakia and Tartous, and preventing NGO access to Menbij.
- As of December 12, 1.1 million had been displaced since late November. As of December 27, 486,000 people had returned to their areas of origin, meaning more than 614,000 people remain displaced.

OUR FOOTPRINT

- From January to November 2024, we reached more than 1 million people with healthcare services, screened 229,760 for malnutrition, provided WASH services to 110,000 and supported 29,640 with mental health care.
- International Medical Corps has operated in Syria since 2008, providing healthcare, nutrition, mental health, child protection, GBV response, and WASH services across 12 governorates with a team of 745 direct staff and 1,404 staff at supported facilities.

OUR RESPONSE

- International Medical Corps is responding to the emergency by:
 - operating 21 mobile medical units that provide primary healthcare and MHPSS services;
 - facilitating the transfer of emergency cases to five supported hospitals through our ambulance services; and
 - procuring and distributing 1,200 hygiene kits, 800 mini dignity kits, 2,500 winterization items for both adults and children, and 150 ovens or alternative heating sources for households.
- We are working to enhance several primary healthcare centers and hospitals by providing essential medications, medical equipment, laboratory resources, furniture, and IT infrastructure to improve diagnostic capabilities, patient management and operational standards.
- Since November 27, International Medical Corps has provided 4,397 health consultations, including 725 focused on sexual and reproductive health, and distributed more than 200,251 medications.

In Aleppo, only seven of the 16 public hospitals and 24 PHCs are fully operational, while six public hospitals and 60 PHCs are functioning only partially due to ongoing fuel and power shortages. Over the past four weeks, a significant increase in suspected cases of acute watery diarrhea has been reported in Aleppo governorate, with most concentrated in the first and fourth health districts.

In Hama, seven primary health centers have reported stolen insulin supplies, while 18 centers in Homs lack vaccination services due to looting, damage and staff shortages. Rural health centers in Homs remain non-operational because of security concerns and insufficient equipment.

In northeast Syria, 14 health facilities, including 10 PHCs and an emergency operations center, have ceased operations following incidents of looting and vandalism. More than 40,000 IDPs residing in emergency collective centers face severe fuel shortages, significantly increasing the risk of communicable disease outbreaks.

In Deir-ez-Zor, only five of the eight primary health centers are partially operational, while the remaining three are non-functional due to staff shortages. Public hospitals in Abu Kamal and Mayadin remain closed, forcing pregnant women to rely on private hospitals or referrals for care.

International Medical Corps Response

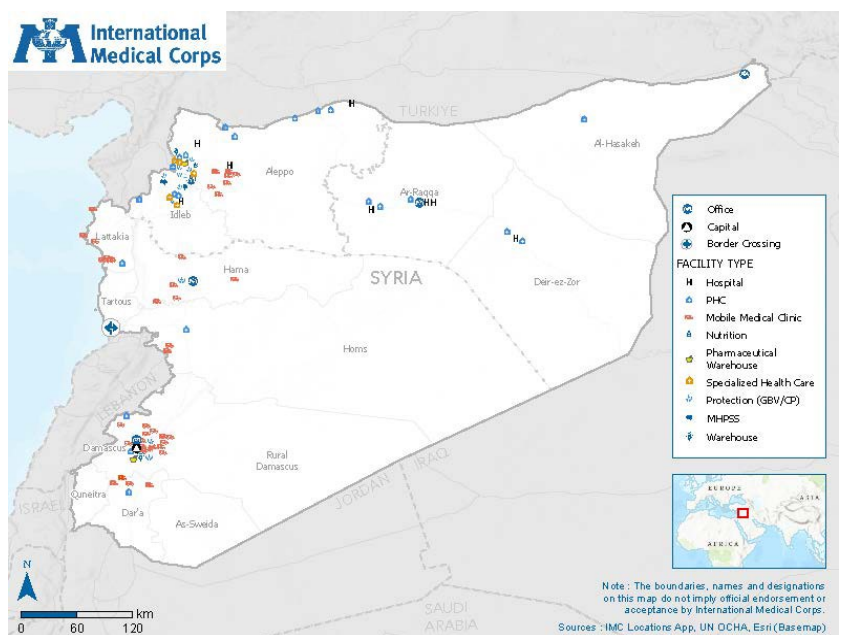
Since 2008, International Medical Corps has been a cornerstone of humanitarian efforts in Syria, providing essential services to vulnerable populations across 12 of Syria's 14 governorates, including Aleppo, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Dara'a, Deir ez-Zor, Hama, Hassakeh, Homs, Idleb, Latakia, Raqqa and Tartous. Our comprehensive programs encompass healthcare, nutrition, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), child protection, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and support, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services. Supported by 745 direct staff and 1,404 health staff based at facilities we support, International Medical Corps delivers lifesaving assistance to some of Syria's most underserved communities.

Between January and November 2024, we provided healthcare services to more than 1 million people, conducted nutritional screenings for 229,760, delivered WASH assistance to 110,000 and offered MHPSS to 29,640. Additionally, we provided more than 49,000 people with protection services. In response to the recent escalation of conflict and resulting displacement, International Medical Corps has intensified our emergency operations, working closely with local health departments and community committees to improve access to essential services in affected areas.

Before the recent escalation of conflict, International Medical Corps operated mobile medical units (MMUs) across seven governorates, providing healthcare to underserved and hard-to-reach communities. In response to the mass displacement crisis, we have expanded our mobile healthcare operations, deploying nine additional MMUs since December 2 to high-need areas, including Idleb, Kobane and Tabqa Stadium. We plan to deploy five more MMUs in Raqqa to meet the growing healthcare demands of IDPs there.

The MMUs provide a broad range of healthcare services, including treatment for acute and chronic illnesses, injury care, communicable diseases and reproductive health services. They also offer antenatal and postnatal care, family planning and syndromic management of sexually transmitted infections. The units are equipped with essential medications, diagnostic tools and medical supplies, ensuring efficient and private care. We also are providing ambulance services to facilitate the transfer of patients needing specialized treatment to hospitals, including Kobane Hospital and Tabqa Maternity Hospital, strengthening the referral system and improving access to advanced care.

In addition to MMU operations, International Medical Corps is working to support several additional public PHCs. To meet the healthcare demands effectively, International Medical Corps we will focus on critical areas of resource enhancement and operational support, such as ensuring the availability of medications and medical consumables. We will donate essential medications, vaccines and supplies—such as syringes, gloves, and bandages—to the selected PHCs, enabling them to manage both chronic and acute conditions for a full year.



To further enhance the capacity of these PHCs, we will provide vital medical equipment, including diagnostic tools such as blood pressure monitors, stethoscopes and ultrasound machines, as well as treatment equipment such as examination tables and surgical instruments. We will help them establish or upgrade laboratory capabilities, ensuring the availability of necessary supplies and equipment to facilitate accurate and timely diagnostic testing, which is essential for effective treatment. We also will provide non-medical supplies—such as stationery for maintaining patient records, educational materials for health promotion and cleaning products to uphold hygiene standards—to support day-to-day clinic operations.

Finally, recognizing the urgent need for fuel in certain PHCs to power electricity and heating systems during the transitional period, we will supply fuel during January, and will extend this support into February and March if critical gaps persist. This comprehensive approach is designed to strengthen the PHCs by providing them with the necessary resources and capabilities to deliver high-quality, sustainable healthcare services, thereby improving the overall well-being of the communities they serve.

International Medical Corps also plans to support several hospitals as part of an initiative to enhance the quality of healthcare services they provide. Strengthening these hospitals' capacity will contribute to the broader improvement of the region's healthcare system, fostering better health outcomes and improving the well-being of local communities.

To address the public health risks associated with the displacement crisis, International Medical Corps is distributing essential supplies, including 1,200 hygiene kits, 800 mini dignity kits, 2,500 winterization items for both adults and children, and 150 ovens or alternative heating sources for households. These provisions will help to reduce the spread of communicable diseases, promote healthier hygiene practices and improve living conditions in areas with high concentrations of IDPs, especially during the winter months.

Since late November, International Medical Corps has delivered 4,397 health consultations, including 725 focused on sexual and reproductive health, and distributed more than 200,250 medications. We are continuously adapting our ongoing, comprehensive healthcare efforts, working closely with local authorities and humanitarian partners to meet urgent healthcare needs while supporting long-term recovery in Syria's most impacted regions.



An International Medical Corps MMU visits Raqqa School.