



Syria continues to face widespread instability and violence, with reports of incidents spanning Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor, Hama, Homs, Lattakia, Quneitra, Rural Damascus and Tartous. Crime is also on the rise, particularly in Aleppo and along the coast, with hijackings and kidnappings becoming more frequent. In Homs, the establishment of new checkpoints has tightened restrictions on movement, hampering access to humanitarian services.

The scale of displacement remains deeply concerning. Since November 27, an estimated 664,000 people have been newly displaced, primarily from Aleppo and Idlib. Out of 1.1 million displaced people recorded as of December 12, approximately 486,000 have managed to return to their original communities. However, movements out of camps have been minimal, with only 12,000 people leaving camps in northwest Syria since December 3, underscoring the ongoing difficulties faced by displaced populations.

Cross-border movements have also remained active. Between December 8 and 27, UNHCR documented the return of 58,350 Syrians, primarily from neighboring Lebanon, Jordan and Türkiye. Most returnees have settled in Ar-Raqqa, followed by Aleppo, Dar'a and Homs.

The danger posed by unexploded ordnance remains a critical issue for civilians navigating former conflict zones. Over the past week, remnants of war are reported to have killed seven people and injured 20 others across Aleppo, Dar'a, Deir-ez-Zor, Hama and Idlib.

Meanwhile, the health system in Syria is struggling under immense pressure, with critical gaps in medical supplies, equipment and skilled personnel. This situation is further exacerbated by looting—as seen in Hama, where seven primary health centers reported the theft of all of their insulin supplies. In Homs, 18 health centers have been unable to provide vaccination services due to a combination of damage, theft and staff shortages.

FAST FACTS

- Violence, crime, and explosive threats persist. An estimated 664,000 people have been newly displaced since late November, primarily from Idlib and Aleppo.
- The overstretched health sector faces severe shortages of supplies, equipment and staff, compounded by looting incidents.

OUR FOOTPRINT

- In 2024, International Medical Corps reached more than 1 million people with healthcare, 165,460 with nutrition support, 110,000 with WASH assistance and nearly 89,000 with MHPSS services while scaling up operations to address conflict-related displacement.
- Since 2008, International Medical Corps has provided critical services across 12 of Syria's 14 governorates, addressing healthcare, nutrition, mental health, child protection, GBV prevention and WASH needs, with support from 745 direct staff and 1,404 staff from facilities we support.

OUR RESPONSE

- Since late November, International Medical Corps has provided 8,773 health consultations, including 1,309 focused on sexual and reproductive health, and distributed more than 258,236 medications.
- International Medical Corps is strengthening primary healthcare centers and hospitals by supplying medications, medical equipment, laboratory resources, furniture, fuel, oxygen and IT infrastructure to improve diagnostic capabilities and patient management.
- International Medical Corps is operating 21 mobile medical units that offer primary healthcare.
- International Medical Corps is 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.

International Medical Corps Response

Operating in Syria since 2008, International Medical Corps has played a pivotal role in delivering humanitarian aid to vulnerable communities across 12 of Syria's 14 governorates, including Aleppo, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Dara'a, Deir ez-Zor, Hama, Hassakeh, Homs, Idleb, Lattakia, Raqqa and Tartous. Our broad scope of programs addresses critical needs in 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 by 1,404 health staff based at facilities we support, we have consistently reached some of the country's most underserved populations.

In 2024 alone, International Medical Corps provided healthcare to more than 1 million people, delivered nutrition services to 165,460, supported 110,000 through WASH initiatives and offered MHPSS services to 88,952. Additionally, we have provided protection services to 68,951 people. Amid the recent escalation in conflict and resulting displacement, we have expanded our emergency response, working hand-in-hand with local health authorities and community groups to ensure that critical services reach those most in need.

To strengthen healthcare services, International Medical Corps is expanding our support to additional public primary healthcare centers (PHCs). Our efforts focus on enhancing resources and providing operational support, with an emphasis on ensuring a steady supply of medications and medical consumables. We are donating essential items, including medications, vaccines, syringes, gloves, and bandages, enabling the PHCs to effectively treat both chronic and acute conditions.

In addition to these supplies, International Medical Corps equips the centers with crucial medical tools, such as diagnostic instruments (blood pressure monitors, stethoscopes and ultrasound machines) and treatment equipment (examination tables and surgical instruments). To support daily operations, we are providing non-medical items—including patient recordkeeping stationery, health education materials and cleaning supplies—to ensure the smooth functioning of clinics and maintain hygiene standards.

In addition to our support for PHCs, International Medical Corps is assisting several hospitals as part of our efforts to enhance the quality of healthcare services. This support includes providing essential medical commodities and non-medical equipment, paying incentives in accordance with agreements with local health authorities, covering monthly facility operating costs and offering staff training on various health-related topics. We have played a crucial role in addressing critical oxygen shortages in hospitals across Aleppo governorate, where facilities were struggling to maintain life-support systems. And Recognizing the urgent need for fuel to power electricity and heating systems in certain PHCs and hospitals in Aleppo and Hama governorates, International Medical Corps is providing fuel throughout January. If critical gaps persist, this support will be extended into February and March. International Medical Corps plans to undertake rehabilitation activities at Maaret Alnoaman Hospital and Albara Primary Health Center.

International Medical Corps is implementing MHPSS programs in several hospitals across northeastern Syria, such as providing psychological first aid for adults and children to address immediate psychological and emotional needs. We also offer services and case management based on the World Health Organization's mhGAP Humanitarian Intervention Guide for people experiencing mental health challenges. To raise awareness of mental health issues, we have disseminated key messaging, brochures, booklets and handbills that teach coping mechanisms to prevent the deterioration of mental health conditions and that encourage potential beneficiaries to seek support. Furthermore, International Medical Corps is implementing integrated GBV case management and psychosocial support, along with appropriate referrals. We also are conducting GBV awareness-raising activities to assist displaced populations.

Before the recent escalation in conflict, International Medical Corps operated mobile medical units (MMUs) across seven governorates, providing essential healthcare services to hard-to-reach and underserved populations. In response to the surge in displacement, we have significantly scaled up our mobile healthcare efforts, deploying an additional nine MMUs since December 2 to support high-need regions such as Idleb, Kobane and Tabqa Stadium. Equipped with vital medications, diagnostic tools and medical supplies, the units ensure that patients receive effective and confidential care, including care for acute and chronic conditions, treatment of injuries, management of communicable diseases and services for reproductive health. The MMUs also provide services around antenatal and postnatal care, family planning and sexually transmitted infections. To further enhance healthcare access, we also are providing ambulance services to



A staff member poses with an oxygen tank we donated to a hospital in Aleppo governorate.

transport patients in need of specialized care to hospitals—including Kobane Hospital and Tabqa Maternity Hospital—strengthening the referral system and ensuring that individuals requiring advanced treatment can reach the appropriate medical facilities.

In response to the public health challenges posed by the displacement crisis, International Medical Corps is providing essential supplies to vulnerable populations. This includes the distribution of 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 efforts are designed to curb the spread of communicable diseases, promote healthier hygiene practices and improve living conditions for internally displaced persons (IDPs), particularly in high-density areas, during the harsh winter months.

Since late November, International Medical Corps has provided 8,773 health consultations, including 1,309 focused on sexual and reproductive health, and distributed 258,236 medications. In addition, we have provided almost 300 IDPs in northeastern Syria with MHPSS services, such as case management and community awareness programs, and provided almost 600 IDPs with protection services.